



Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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Sub-Saharan Africa

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Inter-African: PANA News Agency Introduces Internet Link

*EA2003/30596 Nairobi KNA in English
1005 GMT 20 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Dakar, Senegal (KNA/PANA) — Africa got onto the world information super highway Thursday [16 May] when it introduced its "rapide network", the web created by the PANAFRICAN NEWS AGENCY (PANA) which gives access to the international electronic network, Internet, reports PANA.

A bridge has been established between rapide, (?of) the African network for integration and development, and Internet in Midrand, in South Africa, PANA coordinator-general Babacar Fall said at the town, near Johannesburg. Users of Internet, the world electronic information exchange system, (?will) also have access to the rapide which was placed on Internet Wednesday.

Midway between Johannesburg and Pretoria, Midrand was host to a conference on the information technology. The meeting began Monday, under the aegis of the group of the seven most industrialized countries of the world (G7): Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States.

PANA's stand, at an exhibition alongside the conference, demonstrated the agency's presence on Internet. PANA has been on internet since 1st October 1995.

Senegalese Communication Minister Serigne Diop congratulated the continental agency on its initiative and reaffirmed his country's support to its restructuring pro-

gramme. This effort, with the help of UNESCO, has been under way since February 1993. It is aimed at making the agency more professional. [passage omitted]

Some ten African countries are now connected to the Internet. At Midrand, conference participants identified sectoral projects - such as science and culture. [passage indistinct]

Inter-African: Comesa Notes 'Inadequate' Investment in Telecommunications

*MB2105140296 Lusaka Zambia National
Broadcasting Corporation Network in English
1115 GMT 21 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, Comesa, Secretary General Dr. Bingu wa Matharika says inadequate investment in telecommunications by developing countries has led to the dismal performance in the sector. This is contained in a speech read by director of the Trade and Customs Division, (Lewis Damisu), of Comesa at the opening of the second steering committee meeting on telecommunications in Lusaka. Dr. Matharika said the Comesa secretariat is working on measures to help create a cost-effective regional network that will offer reliable telecommunications services. He noted that programs for trade information on automated systems for customers and data transmission systems have been hampered by inadequate inter-state telecommunication networks. He said Comesa is ready to offer a regional telecommunication network which is fully integrated with the global communication system.

Inter-African: PANA News Agency Introduces Internet Link

*EA2005130596 Nairobi KNA in English
1005 GMT 20 May 96*

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Central African Republic

Central African Republic: Foreign Legion Chief—Situation 'Really Confused'

LD2205125796 Paris Radio France International in French 1200 GMT 22 May 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the Central African Republic, a climate of insurrection still prevails. Negotiations resumed earlier today between the mutineers and the government, but there is a deadlock. The mutineers not only demand the payment of wage arrears, but they are also demanding the resignation of the chief of staff.

In spite of these talks, more regiments have joined the rebellion outside the capital, and special French forces arrived in Bangui this morning to assist the troops already on the ground.

Colonel Antoine Lecerf is the head of the Foreign Legion there:

[Begin Lecerf recording] The situation is really confused. It is also dangerous. Why? Because the action of the mutineers has more or less put the city into the hands of looters. It's as simple as that.

The main objective of our action right now, our essential mission, is to rescue French nationals, and, by extension, all foreign nationals in the country. [end recording]

That was Col. Lecerf. He was talking to our special correspondent Jean-Jacques Louarne.

Looting is continuing in the city center, while foreign nationals have been taken to the French Embassy and to the military base close to the airport of the capital, one after the other, so that they can be protected.

A first flight with French nationals on board was chartered to Paris last night. The Americans have also started an evacuation operation to Cameroon, and they are expected to make a second trip today. [passage omitted]

The French Foreign Ministry has announced that the repatriation of those French nationals who want to be repatriated will start soon.

Central African Republic: Talks Broken Off; Mutineers Try To Seize Power

LD2205143896 Paris Radio France International in French 1400 GMT 22 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In the Central African Republic, negotiations between the government and the mutineers have been broken off. Our special correspondent there, Jean-Jacques Louarne, has just heard an exclusive statement from the spokesman of the mutineers who are

now determined to take power. Jean-Jacques Louarne reports from Bangui:

[Louarne] Our armed forces will take the town this afternoon; we will seize power, and Ange-Felix Patasse must now resign: That is what the spokesman of the mutineers, Sergeant Souke, told RFI a few minutes ago. The negotiations broke off at 1200. The mutineers were calling for the resignation of the director general of presidential security, but they failed to obtain this. At 1200, the mutineers decided to break off the negotiations which were taking place at the National Assembly, and they compelled all the negotiators to come with them, including those on the government side, as well as journalists attending the talks.

Our army has decided to assume its responsibilities, Sgt. Souke said. At the same time, President Patasse was speaking on a private radio station, Radio Notre-Dame, to ask the mutineers to resume negotiations. We regret the fact that the French have brought in forces from Chad, the mutineers' spokesman said, but the French are our friends. We hope that they will not intervene.

This is a turning point in the mutiny. The mutineers say that a large section of the armed forces has joined them. Rumor has it that the French forces must now redeploy. A convoy of about 100 legionnaires have reportedly taken up position in the city center. According to the mutineers' spokesman, Bangui will be the scene of major clashes this afternoon.

This is Jean-Jacques Louarne, Bangui, for RFI.

[Announcer] The large-scale operations for the repatriation of French nationals in the Central African Republic may start very soon. The French Foreign Ministry says there is a short delay. Only those who want to go to Paris will fly there, they are not compelled to do so yet.

Yesterday, 138 people were repatriated in an operation staged for health reasons, mainly children and elderly people.

Central African Republic: Plight of French Nationals Viewed

LD2205150396 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 22 May 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The mutiny by part of the Central African Army that began on Saturday continues, and there are even reports that it has spread to the interior of the country. [passage omitted]

On the question of the talks, the mutineers are calling for the resignation of the Central African defense minister and the Army chief of staff, together, of course, with

their initial demands of a guaranteed amnesty for them and payment of their wage arrears. [passage omitted]

Japan has asked Paris and Washington for help in evacuating their nationals, 45 of whom are in the Central African capital.

A few moments ago, the French Foreign Ministry spoke about the plight of the several thousand French people still in Central Africa. For the time being it is offering to repatriate those who wish to leave. Here is the Quai d'Orsay [Foreign Ministry] spokesman Yves Doutriaux talking to Donaig Le Du:

[Begin recording] [Doutriaux] It is up to those French people in Bangui, in Central Africa, to tell us if they wish to return, and those who wish to return will be helped by France in such a way as to enable them to return to France.

[Le Du] When could these departures take place?

[Doutriaux] Well, for the moment I have no further details other than to tell you that this will be done promptly. Now we have to see exactly what measures need to be taken to carry out these evacuations.

[Le Du] In this sort of case when departure takes place on a voluntary basis, who is responsible for the costs of repatriation?

[Doutriaux] This is a matter that is currently being looked at. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the Foreign Ministry phone number here where you can obtain more details about the situation of our nationals in Bangui. The number is 45-50-34-60, and you can ring 24 hours a day. [end recording]

There you are: 45-50-34-60 is the Paris helpline number set up by the French Foreign Ministry for details about the situation of French nationals in Central Africa.

Central African Republic: French Planes, Troops Said Involved in Fighting

*LD2205153096 Paris LCI Television in French
1500 GMT 22 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] The situation remains very tense in Bangui, and now, on the fifth day of a mutiny by part of the army, it appears much worse than what was reported earlier. The protest could well be taking on a political dimension, with the rebels seeking to seize the radio building.

The Quai d'Orsay said today that the repatriation of French nationals can begin soon. We have Michel Floquet live on the phone from Bangui. Can you hear me Michel?

[Floquet] Yes, I can.

[Announcer] Michel, the situation appears to be deteriorating, and is going well beyond a mere mutiny?

[Floquet] Yes, the situation is indeed deteriorating considerably, and we can even say it has been changing its nature since this afternoon. A moment ago, about 100 very heavily armed French soldiers left the air base, French combat helicopters are in the sky, they have also opened fire — at least one of them has — and two Mirages equipped with guns and rockets have also taken off and are also expected to take part in the fighting. The fighting is taking place in the city center; it appears that this is happening around the area where the radio building is. We have no confirmation of this, but I am led to believe that the mutineers are trying to seize the radio station and that, apparently, French soldiers are intervening.

So, as you can see, we are no longer talking about an evacuation of nationals, but well and truly about a classic military intervention to come to the aid of a friendly regime. There you are. It is hardly worth saying that earlier, talks which were taking place in the National Assembly building have evidently fallen through completely.

[Announcer] Is a new evacuation of French nationals expected? [phone link is cut at this point]

We will try to get in touch with Michel Floquet again in later bulletins.

Central African Republic: Mutineers Fire on Radio Station From Downtown

*AB2205160796 Paris AFP in English
1601 GMT 22 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bangui, May 22 (AFP) — Troops opposed to Central African President Ange Patasse shelled the national radio headquarters in central Bangui Wednesday afternoon, French nationals told AFP.

They said the rebels fired from the Kasai camp, their stronghold about three kilometers (two miles) from the city center.

Central African Republic: French Mirage F1 Jets Deployed to Support Troops

*AB2205163596 Paris AFP in French
1556 GMT 22 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Bangui, 22 May (AFP) — Two columns of the French Legion, each 100-men strong, supported by two Mirage F1 planes, were dispatched this afternoon to the town center of Bangui where mutinous soldiers have been trying to seize the national

radio station. This information was disclosed by French military sources.

According to a French military officer interviewed by AFP, a column of about 100 heavily-armed soldiers of the French Legion was dispatched early this afternoon to Bangui town center from the Mpoko French military air base, about 10 km from the capital.

This column is followed by a second one, also made up of about 100 men and supported by two French Mirage F1 combat planes that have been carrying out intimidation flights over central Bangui.

Central African Republic: French Army Operation 'To Reduce' Mutineers

LD2205173296 Paris LCI Television in French
1700 GMT 22 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The situation in Central Africa: Jacques Godfrain, the Minister of Cooperation, has confirmed that an operation to reduce the mutineers [operation de reduction des mutins] — I quote him — is under way. Since early afternoon, French troops have been intervening in the center of the Central African capital, Bangui, particularly to defend the radio station which has come under mortar attack from the mutineers. Let's talk now to Michel Floquet, our special correspondent in Bangui. Michel, is the fighting still under way as we speak?

[Floquet] Yes, absolutely, the fighting is continuing. Let me remind you that there are about 200 French soldiers involved. A moment ago — less than a quarter of an hour ago — we saw two more French Mirages take to the sky, but I cannot tell you if they intervened. I think they are restricting themselves for the time being to intimidation overflights.

So the fighting continues, and here is a military update given to us by senior officers about half an hour again. The military version of developments is this: The mutineers were in the process of breaking through the lines of loyal troops around the radio building, when the decision was made for French troops to intervene. The French troops did intervene and are still intervening at this moment with, it appears, success because they have managed to restore the lines of the loyalist forces to their previous state.

The official version given to us by the military here is that this is a defensive operation. Of course it is difficult to take this analysis entirely at face value, because it is truly a case of flying to the aid of a regime which was on the brink of collapse. The mutineers made no secret of the fact that they wanted to take power, they wanted to take the city this very day, this afternoon.

Their first target was clearly the radio building, and they were going to seize the radio building when France intervened and pushed the scales in favor of the loyalist forces.

Here they are not talking about reducing the mutineers as Jacques Godfrain put it. They are saying nothing about this officially, but we are led to believe, in fact, that the logic of developments would now dictate that the military operation should continue and that, one way or another, they are going to, quote, put an end, end quote, to this mutiny.

Central African Republic: President Agrees To Some Mutineer Demands

AB2205180096 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French
1700 GMT 22 May 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The situation is still explosive in the Central African Republic. As you know, the mutiny has spread to all the barracks in the country. A moment ago, President Ange-Felix Patasse addressed the nation, saying he has accepted some of the mutineers' demands and rejected the others, but he did not specify which ones. This seems to have heightened tension in the barracks in both Bangui and the interior of the country. Negotiations between the rebel forces and a government delegation broke down this afternoon. The situation is explosive and French troops are all over the place in Bangui, where heavy weapons' fighting is continuing. The mutineers are firing mortar shells on the national radio station in the center of Bangui. In Bangui, no radio station is broadcasting. Bangui has been cut off from the rest of the world, as is confirmed by this witness from Bangui:

[Begin unidentified person recording] The national radio is no longer broadcasting programs. Since this morning and virtually since yesterday afternoon, we have not been receiving Africa No.1. After broadcasting the president's address, the radio went off the air with the exception of Radio Notre Dame, a private Catholic radio station which was on the air for a while until 1500. They usually resume at 1700. I do not know if they will resume broadcasting. [end recording]

In view of the seriousness of the situation, 200 troops of the French Legion backed by Mirage F-1 planes were dispatched to Bangui. In any case, there is no mystery concerning the intentions of the mutineers. Their spokesman has disclosed that his men are going to seize power this evening in Bangui. He affirmed that his soldiers have abducted negotiators who were taking part in the negotiations in Bangui and taken them to their stronghold in the Kasai Barracks. The mutineers say the breakdown in negotiations with the government is due

to President Ange-Felix Patasse's refusal to dismiss the head of presidential security services, the main unit of forces loyal to the president. [passage omitted]

Central African Republic: CAR, French 'Repulse' Attack on Radio

AB2205183096 Paris AFP in French
1759 GMT 22 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Bangui, 22 May (AFP) The mutineers who attacked the Central African Republic [CAR] radio station this afternoon have been "cleaned out," a member of the Central African president's entourage has disclosed.

"We did more than just repulse them, we cleaned them out," indicated Raphael Nambale, President Ange Felix Patasse's spokesman, who added that the radio station building was destroyed during the fighting.

The mutineers were "going to occupy the radio station building. As our men were in the vicinity, the response matched their action," with the assistance of the French Army, "which was fighting side by side with us," the spokesman further stated in a telephone interview with AFP.

He was unable to give us the casualty figure of the clashes but said the staff members in the building were able to be "removed" before the clashes. When interviewed on the situation at the Presidential Palace, which is next to the radio station, Mr. Nambale said: "There is security around the Presidential Palace."

Central African Republic: President Patasse Orders National Curfew

AB2205183496 Paris AFP in French
1819 GMT 22 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Bangui, 22 May (AFP) — President Ange-Felix Patasse of Central African Republic today ordered a curfew over the whole country from 1800 to 0600 local time [1700 to 0500 GMT], it was learned from official sources. This curfew is with immediate effect, the decree adds.

Central African Republic: President Urges Mutineers To Return to Talks

LD2205184996 Paris Radio France International in French 1730 GMT 22 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Clashes have continued today, although there has been a lull in the fighting during the last few hours. At the same time, negotiations between the mutineers and the authorities have been suspended for the moment. Central African President Ange-Felix Patasse spoke several minutes ago about the situation

in a declaration to the nation. In particular, Ange-Felix Patasse confirms that this morning the mutinous soldiers demanded his resignation.

[Begin Patasse recording] To everyone's great surprise, the head of the mutineers' delegation declared that the meeting had been suspended and demanded my resignation.

This mutiny, which was triggered off by part of our army, is absolutely illegal. It can in no way resolve the situation by a military coup d'etat. As a consequence, I invite the mutineers' delegation to return to the negotiating table. [end recording]

Central African Republic: Patasse's Address on Mutiny Highlighted

AB2205195096 Paris AFP in French
1904 GMT 22 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Bangui, 22 May (AFP) — Central African Republic's President Ange-Felix Patasse has invited the mutinous soldiers to resume negotiations with the government's representatives, asserting that the current situation can in no way be resolved by a military coup d'etat.

In an address to the nation, broadcast today on radio around 1600 local time [1500 GMT] — that is, after the breakdown of negotiations and before the repulsed attack launched by the soldiers on the national radio building — the president called on the mutinous soldiers to return to the negotiating table for a mutual solution to be found.

Our country, he added, is already far behind time. We need more than 20 years to regain the confidence of the people, of investors, and friendly countries.

Mr. Patasse pointed out that he had ordered that the negotiations between the mutinous soldiers and government representatives should continue "although the speaker of the National Assembly, the number two man of the nation, has been sequestered and there has been cases of looting," in order to "revisit the grievances of the soldiers."

He said that in order "to preserve social peace" he had agreed on all the points raised by the mutinous soldiers but had expressed some reservations about a few of them.

"But to the general surprise of all, the leader of the delegation of the rebellious soldiers announced that the talks had been called off and called for my resignation," the head of state further stated.

According to Mr. Patasse, the mutinous soldiers had presented a six-point petition to the two delegations for

examination. They had, among other things, called for a amnesty law to be passed by the National Assembly, the removal of several top military officers from office, including the head of the presidential security force. They had also called for the right to keep their arms and for a day of national mourning for their dead comrades.

Central African Republic: Mutineers Ask German Envoy To Intercede

LD2205213596 Paris France-Info Radio in French
2000 GMT 22 May 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The French Army intervened this afternoon against the mutineers in the Central African Republic. [passage omitted]

[Begin Correspondent Nicolas Poincare recording] Representatives of the mutineers explained to us that they hoped that the French Army would not intervene and would stay out of this affair, when some men entered the office and informed us that the French had started intervening in the city center. They said that a unit of some 100 men had taken position around the junction at the Martyrs' Square and fired at the mutineers.

That piece of information was confirmed to us later by men from the presidential guard, those loyal to President Patasse. They told us the same thing — that the French intervened this afternoon. The men from the presidential guard told us: The French have backed us.

The mutineers said: The French fired at us.

A representative of the mutineers telephoned the German ambassador earlier and asked him: What is happening? Can you intercede with the French? Has France declared war on the Central African Republic? [end recording]

Central African Republic: France Evacuates Personnel From Bangui

LD2205220696 Paris France-2 Teletext in French
2143 GMT 22 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] About 170 French nationals were evacuated from Bangui to Paris this evening by a French military aircraft. Most of these evacuees are reportedly aid workers. This evening, the French authorities called on the French nationals whose presence is not absolutely necessary in the Central African Republic [CAR] to leave that country.

Washington has also ordered non-essential staff to leave the CAR. About 250 American nationals are present in that country.

Central African Republic: French Troops Reportedly Kill 12 Mutineers

AB2305085396 London BBC World Service
in English 0630 GMT 23 May 96

[From the "Network Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The situation in the Central African Republic has now taken a new twist. French troops are now putting their support behind President Ange-Felix Patasse against the mutinying soldiers who want him to resign. On the line to Bangui this morning, I asked our reporter there, Joseph Benamsse, what exactly the French troops were doing.

[Begin recording] [Benamsse] The French troops are now deployed in the [words indistinct] capital Bangui just to restore peace and order, and since yesterday afternoon the French troops have been flying over the city firing at the mutineers. This is what happened around the national radio where they opened fire on a group of mutineers who went there to seize the radio, and of late about 12 people, 12 of the mutineers, were shot dead by the French soldiers.

[Malor] Does that mean that the French soldiers have now taken over the entire city of Bangui?

[Benamsse] I cannot say that they have taken the entire city of Bangui because there are some areas left [name indistinct], the military base in Kasai, and also the area in Pekadu where some mutineers are stranded. But it will not take long when these French soldiers will go around and control all the situation, but right now we can assume that they are controlling nearly 70 percent of the situation in the capital, Bangui.

[Malor] You have mentioned that 12 of the mutineers were killed by the French soldiers. Does that mean the mutineers are fighting back or have they retreated and disappeared?

[Benamsse] You see, when these people were killed, it was during an exchange of fire between them and the French soldiers, but it now appears that some of the mutineers have decided to flee. They are no longer in the streets. We could see some of them in plain uniform moving around as civilians, so it now appears that with the coming in of the French troops the situation is getting more and more tense and some of the mutineers are now changing their mind. The situation is not as before.

[Malor] What about the president himself, Ange-Felix Patasse. Apparently, he hasn't been seen in public since all this started. What is known about him now?

[Benamsse] We know that President Ange-Felix Patasse is still alive in the country. He is well-protected now

and, according to official sources, he is protected by the presidential guards and the French troops. Of late, yesterday, he came on to the national radio, and he is the man who announced that the mutineers wanted him to leave within a matter of time. So when he addressed the nation, he asked the people in the country to stand up and to fight the mutineers. He said that he would not step down, and this is the first time people in the country heard about Ange-Felix Patasse and the fact that he spoke on the national radio has cooled down things here in the capital, Bangui. [end recording]

Central African Republic: Civilians Demonstrate in Bangui

AB2305090596 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French
0730 GMT 23 May 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the Central African Republic [CAR], civilians are expressing their anger. They are currently demonstrating along Boganda Avenue to denounce what is happening in Bangui. Generally speaking, the situation remains tense as one can notice. The repatriation of foreigners continues.

Yesterday, French troops intervened to stop the assault by the mutineers on Bangui radio station which stopped broadcasting around 1500. Owing to communications problems with our correspondent Alain-Georges Ngatoua, we cannot give you any balance-sheet or report on the negotiations to resolve this imbroglio resulting from the uprising of these mutineers who are demanding, in particular, a general amnesty as well as the dismissal of the Army chief of staff. In any case, President Ange-Felix Patasse addressed his countrymen yesterday. Here is an excerpt of his address:

[Begin Patasse recording] Our goal is to preserve social peace. At a time when the delegation of the mutineers and the official delegation met at the National Assembly, to the greatest surprise of all, the leader of the mutineers' delegation said that the meeting has been suspended and demanded . . . negotiation. By adopting this position, one must understand that the current mutiny embarked upon by a section of our Army is absolutely illegal. [end recording]

Meanwhile, according to various sources in Bangui, there is a serious bread shortage following looting by bandits, according to the mutineers who denounced this situation. Let us listen to the spokesman of the mutineers, Sergeant Souke:

[Begin Souke recording] Those responsible for these isolated acts of looting are not the people but rather bandits to whom weapons have been distributed indiscriminately, with the aim, for example, of assassinating peaceful citizens. In the face of this situation, we shall

retaliate with the utmost rigor. We cannot tolerate that bandits defy an institution of the Republic, and that the CAR people should be frightened by this retaliation I referred to earlier.

I am, therefore, calling on the CAR people to stand up to arrest these bandits in order to avoid carnage. Given that there are bandits around (Bassinda) and (Bouila) districts, I am asking [words indistinct] to stop those sowing disorder among the people. It is not normal for the country to be paralyzed because of these bandits. I am, therefore, calling on the people to be vigilant in the face of those who want to sabotage our rich and beautiful country. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Central African Republic: French Army Continues Evacuation of Nationals

AB2305092796 Paris AFP in French
0757 GMT 23 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Bangui, 23 May (AFP) — The massive evacuation of foreigners continues this morning at the French air base at Bangui-Mpoko where there is intense activity, while the situation remains tense in the Central African capital. According to military sources at the air base, 70 foreigners were evacuated this morning at 0800, and the operation is expected to continue throughout the day.

Foreigners emerged from the wooden shacks where they had spent several nights after being evacuated from the city center. They were called by loudspeaker to gather in groups in the transit area. Suitcases and traveling bags of departing foreigners are scattered all over the base.

French military truck convoys bearing white flags continue to commute between the base and the city. Preceded by Front Panel Armored Vehicles or light armored cars, they are going downtown in search of foreigners who are still stranded.

The "evacuation" of foreigners continued throughout last night despite the still tense situation in the center of Bangui which is overflowed by French Army Puma helicopters, according to witnesses.

Central African Republic: Rebel Spokesman — 'Informal Talks' Underway

AB2305093496 Paris AFP in English
0918 GMT 23 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bangui, 23 May (AFP) — Two rebel soldiers were killed after French troops opened fire on Army mutineers trying to overtake the state radio station in central Bangui, a spokesman for the rebels said here Thursday [23 May].

Sergeant Cyriac Souke said in a telephone interview that several civilians were also killed in Wednesday's clashes.

He said the situation was calm in the capital Thursday and informal talks were taking place between the rebels and the government. The talks broke down Wednesday with President Ange-Felix Patasse saying he had rejected the rebels' demand to resign.

Meanwhile, the evacuation of foreigners from the Central African Republic continued with 170 French aid workers arriving in Paris Thursday morning and an additional 310 expected later that evening.

One of the evacuees said the situation in Bangui escalated Monday with French troops hampered in

their rescue efforts by heavy shooting. "We witnessed incredible scenes," he said. "When the shooting would stop, looters would take over and then disappear when the gunfire resumed. "As soon as a foreign family abandoned its home, it was systematically looted," he added. "In the center of the city it was total chaos."

Wednesday evening, 13 Portuguese nationals evacuated by the French Army arrived in the northern town of Porto after a brief stopover in Paris. The six-day mutiny has also prompted the United States to evacuate its nationals. There are more than 250 American in the Republic.

Eritrea

Eritrea: Foreign Minister Leads Delegation to France

AB2005141196 Asmara Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrinya 0500 GMT 19 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A delegation led by Foreign Minister Petros Solomon left at dawn today for France to sign the document that Eritrea and Yemen have agreed upon. Prior to his departure, Mr. Petros Solomon told the ERITREAN NEWS AGENCY there are two fundamental issues: First, the need for the two countries to solve the problem peacefully; and second, the achievement of a solution through arbitration. He also said that the disputed case, which is the essence of the conflict, will be defined by a court to be established. In addition, France, which is playing the role of facilitator, and the Governments of Ethiopia and Egypt, will participate in the meeting as witnesses and observers.

Eritrea: Asmara Radio Reports Signing of Agreement on Hanish Islands

EA2205221396 Asmara Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrinya 0400 GMT 22 May 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Eritrea and Yemen yesterday at the French Foreign Ministry, signed an agreement in principle to resolve their dispute peacefully through international arbitration.

French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette, Ethiopian Foreign Minister Mesfin Seyoum, and Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa signed the agreement as representatives of their respective countries. Mr. Vladimir Petrovsky was present at the ceremony as an observer representing the UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali.

Mr. Herve de Charette thanked the governments of Eritrea and Yemen for their strong will to resolve their dispute peacefully, and their patience and endeavor to reach such an agreement. He reaffirmed his country's readiness to resolve the dispute between the two countries peacefully. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Petros Solomon, in his statement, thanked the French Government and especially President Jacques Chirac. He also thanked the governments of Ethiopia and Egypt for their interest in the matter. [passage omitted]

Kenya

Kenya: Ruling KANU Delegation Leaves for PRC

EA2005103096 Nairobi KTN Television Network in English 1000 GMT 19 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] A five-man top level KANU [Kenya African National Union] delegation left

for the Republic of China this morning. The team led by Moody Awori will be in China for 10 days at the invitation of the Liaison Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China.

While in China, the delegation will observe the organization of the party in respect of party mobilization of members and administration of various arms of the party, especially the youth and women. They will also look into the cottage industries based in rural areas. [passage omitted]

Kenya: Parliament Adjourns for Three Weeks

EA1605204096 Nairobi KNA in English 1741 GMT 16 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Nairobi, 16 May (KNA) — Parliament adjourned today for three and half weeks after a two and half months' session, described by many members as a period through which a lot of parliamentary business was transacted.

Moving the motion on adjournment, the vice president and minister for national planning, Professor G. Saitoti, thanked members for their fruitful contributions during debates. [passage omitted]

Parliament resumes on 11th June.

Kenya: Concern Expressed Over Eldoret Ammunition Factory

EA2005120396 Nairobi THE EASTAFRICAN in English 20 May 96 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] A reference in the Nairobi Parliament last week to an upcountry ammunition factory brought to Kenyans' attention for the first time a deal with a European arms manufacturer which has caused controversy in Belgium.

Press reports from Brussels say the leading Belgian weapons supplier, FN Herstal, has constructed a factory at Eldoret capable of producing 20 million bullets per year.

Concern has been expressed that an arms factory in Kenya could contribute to regional instability. Critics of the Belgian Government have charged that it may enable arms salesmen to circumvent embargoes which the West maintains against certain countries.

There was also disquiet that the Kenya Government had maintained blanket secrecy about the project and that the Kenyan ownership was obscure - one report said the contract was signed in 1988 by three senior Kenyan politicians but it was not clear whether they were acting for themselves or the government. Industry experts point out that FN Herstal, which is owned by the French

industrial group, Giat, is a long-established small-arms producer with an unquestioned reputation. Much of the criticism in Belgium has focused on the Brussels government endorsing arms deals with countries whose human rights records have been questioned, such as Kenya, Guatemala, Mexico and Indonesia. A leading opponent of the Eldoret project, Mr. Lode Vanoost, an MP for the Agalev Party, told THE EASTAFRICAN in a telephone interview last week: "If these countries including Kenya respected human rights, this factory would not be an issue. We are concerned that the bullets from this factory will find their way to neighboring countries and cause instability."

We are concerned that the bullet from this factory will find their way to neighboring countries and cause instability."

A 1993 law forbids Belgians from exporting military technology to countries with human rights problems. Mr. Vanoost acknowledged that the Kenya contract was signed before then but added, "we are talking about an arms trade contract not any ordinary contract. It is not a simple commercial agreement. It should be possible to change an arms trade agreement (which has) grave implications for human lives and the security of nations. Belgium is committed to bringing peace to East and Central Africa. But an ammunition factory promotes war rather than peace."

The first that most Kenyans heard of the factory was last Thursday [16 May] when the leader of the opposition, Mr. Kijana Wamalwa, asked in Parliament if the government had signed a contract for a bullet-making factory. Charging that such a volatile venture could cause instability in East Africa, Mr. Wamalwa said, "whether this investment is the result of commercial considerations or political muscle-flexing, it will endanger Kenya's relations with her neighbors. Let the government rebut this report to avoid creating tension."

The government did not dispute the claim and parliamentary sources said it was expected to issue a statement soon. [passage omitted]

Somalia

Somalia: Radio Reports Five Killed in Attack by Pro-Aidid Militia

*EA2105225396 (Clandestine) Radio Mogadishu Voice of Somali Pacification in Somali
1630 GMT 21 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] The assistant secretary for information of the USC-SNA [United Somali Congress-Somali National Alliance] responsible for the local and foreign press, Abdi Abshir, has released a press statement reporting an attack made on the (Barmuda) area of (Hawl Wadaag) District in Mogadishu by a militia of the self-styled group, Aidid's faction. He stated that the provocative attack launched by the militia of the self-styled group continued intermittently for four hours, causing the deaths of five and wounding of eight (Barmuda) residents.

Somalia: Radio Reports RRA Forces Defeat Aidid Militia at Xuddur

EA2305104896 Mogadishu Voice of the Somali Republic in Somali 1700 GMT 22 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Rahanwein Resistance Army [RRA] forces are in total control of Xuddur, the capital city of Bakool Region, after they destroyed three technicals and killed more than 90 Aidid militia in 12 hours of fighting. The RRA forces also recovered three technicals in the area. Aidid's militia, who call themselves a national army, arrived illegally in Xuddur district on 17 January and were killing, raping, and carrying out constant acts of banditry. During the battle, the RRA forces captured some of the militia bandits.

This report was released by the High Command of the Somali Democratic Movement. It says taking control of Xuddur is the start of ousting Aidid's bandit militia from the Bay and Bakool Regions. The report adds five RRA members died and 10 others were wounded. The victory scored by the RRA forces has been celebrated all over Somalia and even abroad.

South Africa: Taiwanese Navy 'Goodwill Squadron' To Visit

MB2305085696 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0809 GMT 23 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] JOHANNESBURG May 23 SAPA — A naval goodwill squadron of two frigates and a supply ship from the Republic of China would visit South Africa from May 25 to June 8, the Republic of China's embassy said on Thursday.

The visit would form part of a training cruise for this year's graduating midshipmen of the RoC Naval Academy, the embassy said in a statement. Squadron commander Rear Admiral Chen-yi Lin would command 971 officers and men, including 186 from the graduating class.

The squadron would enter South African waters on May 25 in Cape Town and would be in Durban from June 5 to 8. A dragon boat race would be staged between the RoC and South African sailors in Durban's port. The drum and bugle corps and a naval honour guard would present tattoo-style drills in the ports to be visited by the squadron.

The ships would be open for public visits while at berth in Cape Town and Durban.

South Africa: Reserve Bank Governor Discusses Reasons for Rand's Fall

MB2305053896 Johannesburg SAPA in English
2129 GMT 22 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CAPE TOWN May 22 SAPA — There were a number of reasons why the rand [R] had recently come under pressure, not least of which were the two or three basic economic fundamentals, Reserve Bank governor Chris Stals said on Wednesday.

He was addressing journalists on the background behind recent currency market fluctuations on the first day of the Southern African Economic Summit in Cape Town. South Africa's inflation rate last year was a little over eight percent, while its major trading partners had inflation rates of between three and four percent, Stals said. This did "not make the rand a currency for appreciation. If nothing else the rand's depreciation should be more or less equal to that inflation differential."

It also had to be taken into account that South African labour productivity was not that high and wages were relatively steep. "We are not that competitive in the world at this stage that we can afford an appreciation of the currency," Stals said.

Because of substantial increases in gross domestic expenditure in South Africa between 1993 and 1995,

there had been an increase of more than 60 percent in imports. "The current account of the balance of payments moved into a deficit of about R12.5 billion last year, 2.5 percent of GDP."

However the rand still appreciated for a period of eight or nine months from May 1995 until the middle of February this year. "We had an appreciation in the nominal average weighted exchange rate of the rand of about six percent." This occurred because of a very substantial capital inflow into South Africa over that period of about R22 billion. The current account deficit was about R12 billion, so there was a surplus on the supply of foreign exchange of something like R10 billion.

"The central bank intervened and absorbed about R9 billion of this. It suited us to absorb the surplus and add it to our foreign reserves, but in the process we created rand liquidity over time. That contributed to a 14.5 percent increase in the money supply last year." Stals said this gave rise to a conflict of policy objectives, because it was very much part of the monetary model in South Africa to control the money supply.

"We thought that the current account deficit will exceed the capital inflow, and that the rand would gradually depreciate. The Reserve Bank would not have tried to resist that for some time, because we want to get back to the fundamentals of the purchasing power parity theory," Stals said.

The rand's depreciation happened very suddenly in the last two weeks of February, to the extent that it depreciated by about five percent. "This did not really worry us that much. It was really cancelling out the appreciation that should never have been there."

The effect of what happened in the American bond market should not be underestimated, Stals said. A massive sale of bonds contributed to the flow of money into South Africa drying up by March and to an outflow in April of R2 billion. "This did not worry us that much but towards the end of March and in April there was an overreaction, we think, and the exchange rate then depreciated another nine percent."

Stals said over the last two weeks the situation had stabilised again, and the Reserve Bank's presence in the foreign exchange market had almost disappeared. "Well, the advantages of the decline in the exchange rate could be eroded by advances in inflation, and the challenge was to keep it down," Stals said. South Africa's experience in this regard was not good. "In the past, every time there was a big depreciation in the exchange rate it took a maximum of 21 months

before the increase in the cost of production completely cancelled out the advantages of the depreciation."

South Africa: IFP Leader Fears Violence To Mar Elections

MB2305080496 Johannesburg SAfm Radio Network in English 0600 GMT 23 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] IFP [Inkatha Freedom Party] leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi says he fears that violence and intimidation will mar the run-up to next month's local government elections in KwaZulu/Natal. He was responding to remarks by outgoing Provincial Affairs Minister Mr. Chris Fisser that necessary measures are in place to ensure free and fair local government elections in the province. Mr. Buthelezi said several people had already been killed in campaign-inspired violence, the most recent being an IFP candidate murdered three days ago. [passage omitted]

South Africa: PAC Leadership 'Tensions' Over Africanist Convention

MB2205120796 Johannesburg THE STAR in English 22 May 96 p 7

[Report by Mondli Makhanya]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tensions are rising in the Pan-Africanist Congress (PAC) over the forthcoming Convention of Africanists, with organisers of the convention at loggerheads with the party's leadership.

The Star understands that organisers have been trying hard to ward off interference by the PAC leadership in the organisation of the event. Among those accused of trying to interfere are PAC Political Affairs Secretary Johnson Mlambo and PAC Deputy President Dr Matsoko Pheko, who have insisted on being kept abreast of the process. However, the national co-ordinating committee (NCC), which is behind the convention, has kept them at bay.

The convention was agreed upon at the PAC congress in April as a way of reviving the PAC by drawing on the expertise of sympathisers from outside the organisation. It is scheduled to take place in August or September.

NCC convener Benny Bunsee confirmed that "elements of the leadership had tried to control events". However, the body wanted no interference from a leadership that had "betrayed the party and the people. There is a general vote of no confidence in the leadership. I personally have no respect for them and members openly despise them," he said.

The NCC did not want interference from the national executive committee because "when you are trying to

create something new you do not want people who are going to drag you back". Successive PAC leaderships had played "a destructive role" in the party and should therefore have no hand in the convention, Bunsee added.

South African Press Review for 23 May

MB2305105796

[FBIS Report]

THE STAR

Criticism of Call for Government National News Agency — Johannesburg THE STAR in English on 23 May in a page-18 editorial notes that South African Communication Services, SACS, Chief Solly Kotane said this country "should follow Zimbabwe's example and set up its own national news agency because the South African Press Association — an independent, nonprofit national news agency — had to use copy that was marketable." Kotane also pointed out that the Zimbabwean government had 25 mobile units which broadcast information to citizens. "What he did not say, although he was reminded of it by the IFP's [Inkatha Freedom Party] Suzanne Vos, is that Zimbabwe is a one-party dictatorship with government-controlled media. Neither did he respond to a question from the NP's Marthinus van Schalkwyk as to how a government-owned news agency would force the media to use its copy." "It is a mystery" that anyone should find an example worth emulating in Zimbabwe, "where President Robert Mugabe rules with an iron fist."

SOWETAN

Business-Labor Pact Needed Before Investment — President Nelson Mandela's German visit "represents such a critically important window of opportunity for South Africa," according to Johannesburg SOWETAN in English on 23 May in a page-12 editorial. "It would be a good thing indeed if President Mandela were able to turn the political goodwill in Germany to increased willingness by German companies to invest in South Africa." However, South Africa first needs to "reach a social pact between business and labour, which will bring some stability and consistency into our labour market. While we may consider conflict between management and labour to be not such a bad thing, outsiders wanting to invest their monies in our country would, rightly or wrongly, think twice before agreeing to commit themselves."

BUSINESS DAY

Government, Business, Labor Triangle Broken — The idea of the golden triangle of government, business, and labor "as the basis of economic progress, as defined

several years ago by then Finance Minister Derek Keys, is looking rather tatty," says a page 12 editorial in Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English on 23 May. There is the "prospect of a period of gross adversarialism" between business and labor and "it will damage us all. But the realities will inexorably push them back towards the more co-operative relationships which have been developing over the last eight or so years." As for government as a whole and its conduct of economic policy, "it seems the ruling party is almost as divided as business and labour. For weeks it has been evident that the vaunted growth and development strategy has been held up in ANC structures as the party's different wings engage in furious debate over its contents."

BEELD

Mandela To Be Tested on Investment Promises — On his first state visit to Germany, President Mandela will this week be "facing a big test." "He has to convince a highly critical outside world that he is not only a

professional promise maker, but has the political will and ability to govern South Africa in a manner that places country interests above party interests; and to create an economic climate in which foreign investors can invest with confidence," advises a page-8 editorial in Johannesburg BEELD in Afrikaans of 21 May. The editorial criticizes the president for using "kid gloves" to deal with trade unions for party interests, the unrest at tertiary education, and the inability to curb the crime wave, and the uncertainty on where the country's economy is generally heading under ministers who are regarded rather as "political appointments than financial experts." Mandela's chief aim is to "conclude closer trade ties with Germany, a force in the European Union, and a country which receives 40 percent of South Africa's exports and from which South Africa gets a third of its imports." But such "close ties" are only possible if the country can "guarantee" foreigners a "safe and lucrative investment future." "Can President Mandela give such a guarantee without it becoming an empty promise?"

Mozambique**Mozambique: Last Installment Article on Mozambique-U.S. Relations***MB2205190996 Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese
14 May 96 p 3*

[Last installment of article by Roseiro Mario Moreira: "Mozambique-U.S. Relations — A look at the Historic and Diplomatic Labyrinths;" on the "Foreground" page]

[FBIS Translated Text]

From the High Level Visits to the 1990 Pluralist Constitution

The first high level visit by a Mozambican head of state to the United States took place in September 1985. President Samora Machel made the first working visit, which was extended into a private one. President Joaquim Chissano made the second visit five years later. He was foreign minister until 1986.

While the first visit took place in the beginning years of Ronald Reagan's second term in office, the second visit took place in the second year of George Bush's term. Although the two countries had new presidents, Chissano's visit did not mean that dialogue would start afresh, but instead their predecessors' efforts would be continued as the following statement reveals:

"Relations have progressed and have been expanded since President Machel met here with President Ronald Reagan five years ago (...) and I believe today we took yet another gigantic step forward."! Yet, the overall difference between the occasions of the visit means that different issues were discussed in each of them. The first visit, which took place when Mozambique was drawing even closer to the West and hoping that the Nkomati [Accord] would bear fruit, dealt more with development assistance issues than with those related to prevailing domestic and regional disputes. But the memorandum drafted for the U.S. Defense Secretary prior to his meeting with Machel did not disregard the aspect of political and military instability in Mozambique and the region. Regarding Machel's visit, the memorandum refers to seven U.S. goals:

- "to improve the Frelimo [Mozambique Liberation Front] government's image before conservatives in Congress;
- to encourage continued adherence to the U.S.-mediated Nkomati Accord with South Africa;
- to encourage Frelimo to negotiate sharing of power with Renamo [Mozambique National Resistance];
- to seek Frelimo's cooperation to reach an agreement between Angola and Namibia;

— to achieve a renewed CIA liaison [preceding word in English] presence;

— to press Frelimo to introduce serious economic reforms and to cooperate more with the IMF and the World Bank;

— to moderate Mozambique's anti-U.S. voting at the United Nations." (Unofficial translation of 19 September 1985 memorandum for the Defense Secretary.)

The search for solutions aimed at ending the domestic dispute and redefining strategies for the peace process were the dominant issues discussed at the White House during the second visit. Constitutional and economic reforms were also discussed during the Bush-Chissano summit.

Relations had already reached a stage where political positions could be linked to Mozambique's economic needs. If in 1986 the Reagan Administration had not included Mozambique in the list of marxist countries (black list) precluding the receipt of U.S. general aid, one could say that bilateralism currently under evaluation was characterized by a growth without differences of opinion since 1983. Mozambique was eventually removed from the so-called black list in January 1990 when it dropped the marxism from its social development program. But such a removal came too late since Chester Crocker already had seen changes in the PRM [People's Republic of Mozambique] Government in 1987. In his remarks to the NEW YORK TIMES of 16 March 1987, Crocker said that "we do not regard the Mozambique Government to be communist in the sense that you use the word," adding that the Mozambique Government had been systematically working to free itself from its previous links with Moscow. The year after, the State Department commissioned U.S. academic Robert Gersony to investigate details of the Mozambique war. Published in April 1988 and based on more than 200 interviews conducted in areas controlled by both government and Renamo, the "Gersony Report" became a testimony of the war holocaust and touched on international sensibilities, leading them to support an end to clashes between Government and Renamo combatants, and to encourage diplomatic moves by government, Renamo, and other leading members of society.

The establishment of a multiparty system in Mozambique by means of the 30 November 1990 Constitution was the turn of a new page in Mozambique-U.S. relations. Taking one's wish into account, it would have been impossible to think in terms of losing what had been achieved — it was an acceptable wish for someone who had given so much to the causes espoused by each side, and to the cause of regional peace. The establishment of pluralism in Mozambique was not detrimental

to the country's foreign policy. In fact, the possibility of debating domestic issues can lead to a not so compromising foreign policy. Nationalists that give priority to local and/or regional entrepreneurship, could give their contribution to the extent that what might have been fully accomplished by the U.S. business sector could be done by domestic entrepreneurs or by a regional joint venture [preceding two words in English] requiring more economic incentives than initiative. By investing what has been acquired — be it bilateralism with the United States or other quarters — in the capacity of citizens, in their individual creativity, and in what each one of them has to offer to their country's economy, would not only make it possible to move from the current "donation economy" to a locally participatory and regionally integrated economy, but would also strengthen the reasons for continuing with healthy bilateralism.

Improved relations between Mozambique and the United States does not depend only on a politician locked in his office, but also on the overall situation that gradually changes as the country enters a new development phase. Dear reader, without forecasting things from a very tight standpoint, and without wishing to force any scenario about the future of those relations, you should bear in mind the following White House goals (1985): "to encourage Frelimo to negotiate the sharing of power with Renamo; to seek Frelimo's cooperation to reach an agreement between Angola and Namibia; to achieve a renewed CIA liaison [preceding word in English] presence." Now, you should evaluate Washington's different positions in its relations with Mozambique.

You should recall that in the first part of this article, we referred to a tactical change in U.S.-made [preceding two words in English] macro strategy. Has the White House dropped the strategic importance of Mozambique and the region from its agenda?

Conclusion

The paper entitled, "Mozambique-U.S. Relations — A Look at the Historic and Diplomatic Labyrinths," which you have read in five installments, is aimed at profiling bilateralism between 1974 and 1990. That is, from the year of the anti-fascist coup in Portugal (the then Mozambique's colonial metropolis) up to years of major domestic changes in Mozambique that culminated with the end (at least theoretically) of Frelimo's absolute ideological power.

The theme was dealt with chronologically. Interestingly, bilateralism gained momentum as the chronology unfolded, save for a few momentary withdrawals through the 15 year-period that was looked at.

Mozambique has been a sovereign member of the great international family for over 20 years, and has the power to make its presence known. Relations with the United States, which fit in that context, reflect the evolutionary process of a young country's diplomacy in light of the diplomacy of a country that is a veteran in international relations. Thus, while the United States conducted its diplomacy as a superpower, the PRM, today without the "P," gradually acquired its own diplomatic profile. In doing so, this young country proved to be capable of conducting a diplomacy geared toward the political interests represented in each phase of its history and regional standing. Any form of diplomatic subservency [clientismo] was avoided.

The period under appraisal, including the second half of 1974 when the U.S. State Department established contacts with the [Mozambique] transitional government, embraces 16 years of a two-sided bilateralism: eight of a difficult and conflicting relationship in view of mutual mistrust, and eight of gradual rapprochement. The first eight years related to the period in which Mozambique sought to establish a diplomatic profile of its own, and to shape the political changes in the country and the region in the U.S.'s strategic image. [sentence as published] The last eight years, however, show the possibility of dialogue and viable cooperation, even between states of different political persuasions.

It was in the late 1980's that bilateralism succeeded under Frelimo's one party rule. Lessons like the redefinition of human rights, and the possibility of ideological confrontation with its consequences to the country's economy, were directly or otherwise learned during those 15 years of bilateralism.

Though not done from a perspective standpoint, this conclusion reviews the article's body in its condensed version. Whether his aim was achieved or not, the author wanted not only to contribute to the enhancement of literature on the subject, but also to help create the habit of looking at history for possible reasons for the diplomatic behavior of the current U.S. diplomatic mission in Maputo, and to praise both the Mozambican and the U.S. sides for the success of what has been achieved.

Mozambique: Renamo's 'Complete Surrender' to Frelimo Criticized

MB1605144196 Maputo IMPARCIAL in Portuguese
9 May 96 p 1

[Report by Natalia Lopes]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Mozambique National Resistance's [Renamo] complete surrender to the

Mozambique Liberation Front [Frelimo] Party bench in the Assembly of the Republic's fourth session — let it be noted that, to the Democratic Union's [Palmo, Panade, and Panamo] credit, it remained dignified and firm to the end — is made all the more strange and inexplicable by the fact that Renamo knows it better than anybody that Frelimo has always used (in dictatorship as well as in democracy) arrogant repression and "sugar bullets" to still its opponents, particularly when they become uncomfortable. Renamo was humiliated virtually throughout the entire session by the majority bench's pure and simple rejection of all its legislative initiatives just because they were proposed by Renamo. Ultimately and for no apparent reason, this opposition party dropped its healthy aggressiveness and listened to Frelimo's "mermaid chants," swallowing some inviting sweet that must by now taste disappointingly bitter.

Frelimo enjoys a meager majority, but it is vulnerable in the sense that it must always carefully check that all its deputies are in so that its draft laws are not rejected. Renamo's hitherto firm stance — barring that slip of approving the government's program — is the only stance it can and should adopt so it can affirm itself as the alternative to this government. Voters do not want a "second Frelimo" that will only ensure a change of faces in government. Rather, they want a firm stance. They want the government's democratic "sabotage" reported, for let us be under no illusion that the ruling party will continue to undercut democracy to the best of its ability.

Even without enough votes to change, prevent, or impose decisions, the opposition's deputies should never relent in their duty to report on, criticize, and fight the majority bench's normally antidemocratic behavior.

For all these reasons, it was painful to listen to Renamo bench chief Raul Domingos' timid final speech in the Assembly's fourth session. There were times when, if you closed your eyes, you might think it was his Frelimo counterpart talking. Most extraordinary of all was the passage in which Domingos described as positive the proceedings of a session that was literally smothered and tarnished by Frelimo's "vote dictatorship." Domingos' remark raises legitimate questions about whether he was trying to honor some behind-the-scene agreement, be "pleasant" (to whom: Frelimo's voters?), or a "well-mannered boy."

Domingos went so far as to talk about selflessness, as though this were this multiparty Assembly's foremost characteristic. Let us not forget that this Assembly still includes prominent figures from Frelimo's reign of terror who ultimately forced Renamo to take up arms. However, if such sudden "selflessness" exists even in this situation, how do you explain that complete

rejection of discussions concerning the Law on the Minimum Wage and the Law on the Cost of Living?

Domingos also aired the word "lucidity." What lucidity was this? If there was lucidity why was it necessary to use the "shut-your-mouth vote" to quash Renamo's proposals? Does this mean that Renamo's proposals lacked lucidity after all?

We have to reiterate that it is difficult to grasp what made the Renamo chief talk like that. His speech might have passed for that of a citizen afraid to tell the truth. Could it be that some carrot was dangled before his eyes or that someone put him under pressure? Domingos said the meeting's agenda was adhered to, only to add in his next breath that seven draft laws had been withdrawn from discussion: "the laws on electricity, the environment, and minors' access to nightclubs, creating the Mozambique Medical Council and the Consumer Protection Council, and drafting the regulations that will govern the Assembly's commissions, as well as a report on the procedures to be followed for petitions, complaints, and demands. [no closing quotation marks as published]

It would have been healthier if at that time an opposition deputy asked for an extension of the session, or a special session, at least to discuss the matter of petitions, complaints, and demands.

The fact is that citizens who present such petitions, complaints, or demands to the Assembly only do so because they need to see their problems dealt with. What is more, those citizens will have previously taken those problems to other institutions that will not have dealt with them. At present, the Assembly is the only ruling institution where such matters can be discussed from different viewpoints. Our courts still obey the ruling party. The same has to be said of our police and ministries. Thus, a truly inclusive discussion of problems can only take place in the Assembly.

Domingos' speech was a compromising one because it was excessively cautious, so much so that caution deadened whatever truths it contained! You have to be more aggressive when you deal with a government as arrogant and full of the I-know-it-all approach as the Frelimo government. To make any impression on the majority bench, criticisms always must be direct and ferocious. Soft talk will only help discredit the speaker in the eyes of those who voted him into that position in the hope that he would act differently. [passage omitted]

**Mozambique: Renamo Leader To Present
Complaints to EU**

*MB2205152696 Maputo IMPARCIAL in Portuguese
15 May 96 p 1*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Mozambique National Resistance [Renamo] leader Afonso Dhlakama will finally begin his visit to Europe after a number of postponements. He is expected to visit Paris then Brussels, but it is possible he will also visit other European capitals.

The Renamo leader plans to apprise those countries of the general situation in Mozambique and to encourage the international community to remain committed to the causes of peace, development, and the consolidation of democracy and reconciliation in this country.

Dhlakama says that the Mozambique Liberation Front [Frelimo] government is harming democracy and reconciliation by "constantly putting across an image of war" and promoting an impression of political and military destabilization.

Speaking to IMPARCIAL from Beira, the Renamo leader reaffirmed the need for local elections to be held throughout the Mozambican territory next year. In fact, Dhlakama made it clear that he intends to discuss the issue of local elections with the EU — of which France and Belgium are members — which is willing to finance those elections if there is consensus among the principal political forces and civilian society.

In Brussels, the headquarters of the EU, the Renamo leader is likely to lobby to get the EU to persuade the Mozambican Government to reconsider its stance that local elections must be held gradually on the pretext that there are institutional, financial, and human resource problems hampering self-administration in many districts. [passage omitted]

[Maputo IMPARCIAL in Portuguese on 17 May in a related item on page 2 adds: "The Renamo leader is scheduled to begin his visit to France on 18 May. Among the principal points he intends to raise are Frelimo's allegedly provocative behavior and a more faithful portrayal of Mozambique's social and economic situation.

"Dhlakama will voice his concerns about the political and financial annihilation operation he believes the ruling party is carrying out against Renamo and other opposition forces. Dhlakama believes that the Assembly of the Republic's recent approval of a one-party National Security Council will only institutionalize the action of the so-called 'Prelimo crisis cabinet, which aims to push Renamo into reacting violently' by spreading news reports about supposed attacks by 'Chimwenje' ['Torch' Zimbabwean dissidents] in cahoots with Renamo sol-

diers in areas where Renamo enjoys great influence. [passage omitted]

"Dhlakama will also raise the problems of discrimination against, and hounding of opposition supporters looking for economic investment loans and employment in the public service. In addition, he feels the government is using food aid as a political weapon. He renewed his promise that 'we will never return to war' but added that he is having more and more difficulty keeping his party's grass roots calm, especially in the Northern and Central regions, because of the indiscipline shown by government authorities at the district level." [passage omitted]]

Namibia

**Namibia: Officials Awarded 'Up to 109 Percent'
Salary Increases**

*MB1705184996 Johannesburg NEW NATION
in English 17 May 96 p 9*

[Report by Tabby Moyo]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Namibian politicians and senior civil servants have awarded themselves salary increases of up to 109 percent amid protests by unions. The government maintains it is simply implementing the recommendations of an independent body, the Wage and Salary Commission.

However, with financial constraints impeding the work of most government departments, many Namibians have expressed shock at the enormous hikes.

These are backdated to April 1. Under the new salary structures announced by Prime Minister Hage Geingob, the lowest paid civil servant will get an increase of less than 20 percent, which Geingob describes as "substantial".

The president's salary shoots up to close to 70 percent, from the present equivalent of R18,310 to R30,590 [rands] per month, excluding allowances and other benefits. The prime minister, his deputy and the speaker of the National Assembly have had their salaries increased to R22,400, R18,091 and R18,825 respectively. Parliamentarians have had their incomes increased from just below R4,064 to over R8,128 per month.

Implementation of the new pay structures will result in a gross increase in costs of R351-million which Geingob says will be offset by R46.45-million from normal taxation on higher salaries, R118-million from the incorporation of bonuses into basic pay scales and R65.55-million resulting from a reduction in the government's contribution to the civil service pension fund and a reduction in overtime payments.

Justifying the salary increases for politicians, Geingob says: "Salaries are based on responsibility. When one considers the salary of a president, one has to keep in mind that he has the power to declare war or to develop the country ... such is the responsibility that goes with that position."

The major unions representing the Namibian civil service, the Public Service Union (PSUN) and the Namibia National Teachers' Union have registered their displeasure with the pay hikes, describing them as a "betrayal" of civil servants.

PSUN acting secretary general Johannes Gurirab says many union members have expressed dissatisfaction because their new salaries do not come close to beating inflation, whereas politicians, already above the bread-line, have been awarded huge increases.

"PSUN is particularly disturbed by this trend, especially after political office bearers were given a 20 percent increase last year, while civil servants had to be content with only a 10 percent raise," Gurirab says.

The director of the Namibia Economic Policy Research Unit, Henning Melber, says the government risks losing credibility with the international donor community. He maintains salary hikes for politicians and the top echelon of the civil service show a lack of commitment to promises made by the government at a conference in Geneva last year to reduce the size of the public service and the government wage bill.

Zambia

Zambia: Chiluba Urges People To Work Hard, Use Resources

MB1305145796 (Internet) *Zambia Today in English*
12 May 96

[Item originally published by the ZAMBIA NEWS AGENCY, ZANA, on 12 May 1996, by Loyce Mkwawaya entitled "President Chiluba Calls for Hard Work"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Chiluba has called on Zambians to work hard and utilise the country's resources in order to improve their standard of living.

The President, who addressed a public rally in Kitwe's Chimwenwe township today said the country could not continue to rely on donors adding that the government would equally not embark on policies to appease the people. He said the only solution to the country's problems was for people to work hard as posterity would judge the nation if the country was destroyed.

Mr. Chiluba said the MMD [Movement for Multiparty Democracy] had already started the process of rebuild-

ing the country but urged Zambians to give his party another term in office in order for them to complete development programmes that had already been started.

He said selfishness and greed by a few individuals had destroyed the country, adding that Zambians should not allow such people to rule the country again.

The President warned that, as the country approached elections, opposition parties would be going around spreading a lot of lies and asking people to vote for them adding that the electorate should have the right to find out what programmes such people had for ordinary citizens.

On the privatisation of Zambia Consolidated Copper Mines, the President said this had to be done cautiously because it would endanger the security of the nation if the company was sold to a single individual or organisation as a single entity, as being suggested by some people.

He said government was seeking ways of making the mines viable before privatising them. And the high level of unemployment in the country is a source of worry to the government.

President Chiluba said in order to make people self sustaining, the government had given out constituency funds to enable people start viable projects to support themselves. He urged all constituents to use these funds wisely as they were meant to benefit the communities.

Zambia: Barotse Chief Expresses Support for Government

MB1605170596 (Internet) *Zambia Today in English*
15 May 96

[Item originally published by the ZAMBIA NEWS AGENCY, ZANA, on 15 May, entitled "Government and Lozi Royalty Mend Fences?"]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Chief Adviser of the Litunga-Paramount Chief of the Lozi people, Maxwell Mututwa, has assured the government that the Barotse Royal Establishment in the Western Province is now ready to work closely with the authorities in order to try and accelerate the much needed development in the area.

Mr Mututwa, whose official title is Ngambela, gave this assurance when he addressed more than 30 Lozi councillors or Indunas who were attending a workshop on policy development on Chiefs' affairs at Ngulu Hotel in Mongu, provincial capital of the Western Province today.

The Ngambela said that the idea of conducting a workshop for traditional indunas is most welcome because

it is designed to bridge the gap which existed between the Barotse Royal Establishment and the central government. He said that if former Republican president, Kenneth Kaunda had this foresight, there would never had been divisions between the Barotse Royal Establishment and the central government. [passage omitted]

Zambia: Trade Union Expresses Support for Government

MB1305152796 ZAMBIA TODAY in English
11 May 96

[Item originally published by the ZAMBIA NEWS AGENCY, ZANA, on 11 May 1996, entitled "ZCTU Says There Is No Crisis"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Zambia Congress of Trade Unions [ZCTU] has come out in full support of the government on current developments in the country and dismissed suggestions that there was a crisis in the country.

ZCTU President-General, Fackson Shamenda, said in Kabwe last night that there was no crisis in Zambia as alleged by some people.

He said what was needed was wide consultations on issues pertaining to fundamental human rights. Mr Shamenda, who is in Kabwe to attend the Communications Workers Union Quadrennial conference at the Masiye Motel said the labour movement had endorsed that only an indigenous Zambian must be president of the country because he has interests of the people.

On adopting the new constitution by a constituent assembly, the ZCTU chief said what was needed was wider consensus to be reached on the issue.

Commenting on disrespect by some opposition leaders to President Chiluba during the abortive inter-party meeting at Mulungushi Conference Centre, Mr Shamenda said he was shocked and embarrassed for what took place there. "In all democracies, there should be respect for the Office of President whether one likes the man in the post or hates him. There is no need to disrespect a person even if you do not agree with his views. We should learn to respect each other," he declared.

Mr Shamenda said it was unfortunate that opposition leaders did not stand up when President Chiluba entered the hall.

He said the action by the opposition leaders implied that even themselves should not be respected. He said Zambians, regardless of their political and religious affiliations, should respect the head of state.

Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe: 'Tawian Question' Said Theme of Jiang Zemin African Tour

MB2205165696 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1404 GMT 22 May 96

[Report by Lewis Machipis]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] HARARE May 22 SAPA-IPS — Chinese President Jiang Zemin could have reason to be satisfied with the results of his six-nation African tour, aimed at stemming the 'defections' to Taiwan by former allies in Africa.

According to Vice-Premier Qian Qichen, who is also China's foreign minister, the word from leaders of the six nations visited was they had no intention of establishing diplomatic ties with Taipei.

The Chinese leaders insisted that the long-term interests of African and other developing countries would best be served if they broke — or refrained from having — relations with Taiwan.

Indeed, that was the underlying theme of the trip which included Kenya, Ethiopia, Egypt, Mali and Namibia and ends [words indistinct] keep supporting African nations without "attaching any strings", Jiang Zemin said, if they kept away from Taiwan.

"As far as I am concerned, I would say that's attaching strings because there is a condition," commented Hiroe Motoyama Mallang, Asia-Pacific researcher with the South Africa Institute of International Affairs. "You befriend Taiwan and you do not get Chinese aid."

Using South Africa as an example, she said: "South Africa wants to keep formal relations with both countries but the Chinese government does not accept that and as a result there are no formal ties between the two countries."

Still, China has a softer stance on South Africa than on other less endowed African nations, partly because of the importance of trade ties between the two countries. South African trade with China jumped to 1.3 billion dollars in 1995 from 14 million dollars in 1991, whereas Taiwan-South African trade amounted to 960 million dollars last year.

Beijing is also aware that it would be difficult for Pretoria to abruptly cut relations developed with Taipei during apartheid.

Vice Premier Qian Qichen said Tuesday that China wanted to have diplomatic ties with South Africa, but only on one condition — that it severs relations with

Taiwan. But, he added, "if South Africa needs more time to server relations with Taiwan, China will wait."

China's attitude to Nigeria and Gambia, for example, has been different. When Gambia recognised Taipei in 1995, Beijing responded by withdrawing 40 of its nationals, mainly doctors and martial arts experts, from the West African nation. In the same year, China threatened to pull out of Nigeria when its government tried to seek Taiwanese financial assistance.

China has an impressive track record in post-colonial Africa. Highlights of Sino-African cooperation range from the building of the 1,860-km Tanzania-Zambia railway to the construction of factories and roads.

In the 1960s and 1970s Beijing gave firm political, military and financial support to liberation movements in various African nations, including Zimbabwe.

Today, Chinese assistance is mainly concentrated in fields such as railroad construction, health care, housing construction, tourism and water conservation.

Bilateral trade has also gained in importance, especially in the case of countries such as Kenya, where Chinese products — generally cheaper than Western goods — enjoy great popularity.

According to the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation, two-way trade with the African continent totalled 3.92 billion dollars in 1995 and has more than quadrupled during the last five years.

And there is room for further growth. Although Sino-African trade is increasing by more than 40 percent yearly, it accounts for just over one percent of China's total. The more than 20 documents on trade signed during the six-nation tour aim to increase that percentage. But while trade was a key aspect of the visits, the Taiwan question kept cropping up in the six capitals and Harare was no exception. "There is only one China of which Taiwan is part of," vice-premier Qichen told journalists in Harare Tuesday.

If the Chinese leaders had any doubts about where Zimbabwe's loyalties lay, these were immediately put to rest. After meeting Jiang Zemin, Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe stressed that Harare supported the "re-unification of Taiwan with the People's Republic and will always adhere to the One-China policy."

At the United Nations, 130 countries recognise China while only 31 have diplomatic links with Taiwan. Beijing considers the island — to which former president Chiang Kai-Shek and two million of his followers fled following their defeat in 1949 — a renegade province unworthy of international recognition.

In Harare, Qichen appeared irked by new Taiwanese president Lee Teng-Hui's pledge, at his swearing-in on Monday, to abide by the constitution, increase people's welfare and, more importantly, protect the country. Qichen dismissed the statement as "not only shameful but also deceitful."

China is an important player in the world economy and is expected to become the next economic superpower. Its gross domestic product of 1.66 trillion dollars in 1994 was second only to that of the United States. And with 1.2 billion people — 25 percent of the global population — it is the world's largest potential market.

But Taiwan is no midget. It is the world's 19th largest economy. Moreover, it has been wooing African affections and 10 of its 31 diplomatic allies worldwide are African.

Zimbabwe: Presidency Said Divided Over Cabinet Line-Up

MB2305090796 Harare THE FINANCIAL GAZETTE in English 9 May 96 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The much-awaited cabinet reshuffle has hit an impasse, reportedly precipitated by disagreements between President Mugabe and his two deputies over who should be in the new line-up, THE FINANCIAL GAZETTE has learnt.

The disagreement, top ZANU [Zimbabwe African National Union] PF [Patriotic Front] insiders said this week, centres around who should take over as Mugabe's deputy, both in the party and in government.

The two vice-presidents, Simon Muzenda and Joshua Nkomo, are said to have indicated their respective willingness to vacate their posts and pave the way for a "new-look" cabinet headed by Mugabe that would steer the country into the next century.

But as a precondition for retirement, the two men are said to have already indicated that they would want to recommend their respective successors. Mugabe is also reported to have a potential candidate in mind, although it was said he favoured abolishing the dual vice-presidency in favour of one deputy.

The dual vice-presidency was introduced in 1988 following the Unity Accord as a way of accommodating former political colleagues and freedom fighters from the then PF-ZAPU [Zimbabwe African People's Union]. The second vice-presidency was created for Nkomo, the former ZAPU leader. But of late, the system has come under critical attack from both inside and outside the party, being now regarded as redundant.

Ruling party insiders have said that the composition of a new cabinet would be reflective of "insider politics" and would likely take into account the country's tribal diversity.

Leading candidates on Mugabe's vice-presidential shopping list are said to include Higher Education Minister Ignatius Chombo, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Emmerson Mnangagwa, who is a member of the ago Provincial Governor Josiah Hungwe or Foreign Minister Stan Mudenge to succeed him. Both men belong to one of the factions that has been battling for political control of the province.

Nkomo, meanwhile, is reported to have thrown his full weight behind Transport and Energy Minister Simon Moyo as a potential successor to his Munhumutapa office.

Cabinet and politburo members John Nkomo and Dumiso (name and words indistinct) reshuffle of the politburo, one of the ruling party's top policymaking bodies.

It could not immediately be established if the politburo and cabinet reshuffles would coincide.

Mugabe was this week scheduled to meet local editors for an "off the record" briefing but postponed it. The meeting has been rescheduled for next week.

The reshuffle, which was expected to be announced last month, was delayed partly because of the deadlock over its composition and also because of the death of one of Nkomo's children, Thuthani.

It is also unlikely that the reshuffle would be announced any time soon because Nkomo is said to be seriously ill.

It is unclear how anyone in the party's leadership could succeed in naming a successor in the absence of a ZANU PF election to elect such individuals to party posts. Under the party's constitution, those vying for leadership posts such as that of vice-president should be elected during a party national congress.

The Gambia**The Gambia: Electoral Commissioner Explains Revision of Timetable**

AB1305200096 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 13 May 96

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gambian voters will probably have to wait until the end of this year for a complete return to elected civilian government. Under a revised timetable announced by the electoral commission at the weekend, a referendum in July will be followed by presidential elections in September and legislative ones in December, but the latest postponement will come as no surprise to most Gambians as their head of state, Captain Yahya Jammeh originally intended to stay in power for another two years until 1988. On the line to Banjul, Chris Simpson spoke to the electoral commissioner, Gabriel Roberts, and he asked why they had been forced to revise the timetable in the first place.

[Begin recording] [Roberts] We were not able to assemble the materials and equipment that are needed for the conduct of the registration.

[Simpson] And, that problem has been resolved now?

[Roberts] It has been resolved. The contract has been signed with a firm — a UK firm — that is supervising the registration, and the materials have arrived, the technical assistance has been given, and the database for collecting the materials are all in place, and registration has begun this morning.

[Simpson] We have still got a situation, though, haven't we, where all political parties are banned at the moment. Is that ban going to be lifted?

[Roberts] It is going to be lifted after the completion of the registration process. This is the promise that we have from the head of state.

[Simpson] And, that promise is being taken at face value, is it?

[Roberts] Yes, certainly.

[Simpson] Do you get the impression that Capt. Jammeh himself, who has talked about wanting a much longer transition to civilian rule, is he really in favor of this electoral timetable?

[Roberts] He is. I think when he was talking about this longer period, that was a long time ago. And then, there was the national consultative committee that consulted the people, and they requested that the period be reduced to two years, and this was accepted by the AFPRC [Armed Forces Provisional Ruling Council] government.

[Simpson] Is it not the case that it is going to be quite difficult for these parties to be allowed to organize properly? There is not very much time left for them, and the rules have got some fairly stringent conditions on how much money they are going to have to pay to stand.

[Roberts] No, I think they will have plenty of time to organize themselves, because if the ban is lifted, say, on the 23d of June, the presidential election will take place on the 11th of September. And, they have time to organize their parties to produce candidates for the presidential election. Then, they still have another three months to organize themselves to select their candidates for the various constituencies.

[Simpson] Is the former ruling party, the PPP [People's Progressive Party], going to be allowed to be involved in this process?

[Roberts] Well, there is no restriction on the parties. No parties have been banned to register or something, or to... [pauses] I think they will be free to apply to be registered if they want to.

[Simpson] So, if Mr. Jawara came back, could he stand as a presidential candidate?

[Roberts] If he has a party that presents him for its candidate, and the Independent Electoral Commission considers it can fulfill all its conditions, then he will be allowed to.

[Simpson] Will Capt. Jammeh be standing?

[Roberts] Will you like to ask him? [end recording]

Guinea**Guinea: RUF's Sankoh Ends Visit 21 May, Comments**

AB2105231096 Conakry Radiodiffusion Nationale de la Republique de Guinee in French 1945 GMT 21 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] As announced in the headlines, Corporal Foday Sankoh, leader of the Revolutionary United Front [RUF] in Sierra Leone, left our country this afternoon following a four-day working visit to Guinea. Before his departure, the RUF leader told the press about the outcome of his discussions with the Guinean head of state and government. First, the RUF leader expressed satisfaction with the readiness of the Guinean authorities to contribute to the search for peace in Sierra Leone. He later expressed his gratitude for the attention and the solidarity with which the Sierra Leonean refugees are treated in Guinea. Let us listen to Foday Sankoh as he spoke to Patrice Camara.

[Begin Sankoh recording, in english fading into french translation, processed from the french] First of all, I would like to express my sincere thanks to His Excellency General Lansana Conte and the people and Government of Guinea for the concern they have shown for the peace currently prevailing in Sierra Leone. At the same time, I would like to thank the Guinean Government for the hospitality granted to their brothers and sisters, the Sierra Leonean refugees in Guinea. At the same time, I would like to ask them to do everything possible to continue to support them and at the same time encourage us to continue with the negotiations until the end of the crisis to enable our people to live in peace. My discussions with the president were (?fruitful). He greatly insisted on the need to continue with the peace process that we are currently engaged in in Cote d'Ivoire. We are ready and committed to talk with our brothers in Freetown, but patience is needed to do so. In the first place, we are struggling for the establishment of peace before going on to talk about elections to come to power. This is our determination and our position in the RUF. That is why we did not take part in the recent general elections organized in Sierra Leone. [end recording]

Liberia

Liberia: Monrovia Streets Reported Calm; Looting in Diplomatic Area

AB2205103396 Paris AFP in English
1003 GMT 22 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Monrovia, 22 May (AFP) — Looting was taking place in the diplomatic enclave of Mamba Point Wednesday (22 May) but the streets of Monrovia were otherwise quiet, residents said. Factional clashes raged in this area for more than three hours on Tuesday and fighting was also reported in other districts.

Witnesses in the Greystone compound, a temporary home for some 20,000 Monrovia residents in Mamba Point, say several residents were injured when fragments from a rocket propelled grenade entered the compound.

In the eastern suburb of Sinkor, six Western journalists, including an AFP photographer, were detained and harassed for four hours by militiamen of Charles Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia before being released with a warning not to return to the area, one of the most tense in the capital.

Niger

Niger: Mainassara Pledges Respect for Constitution

AB2105100296 Niamey Voix du Sahel Network
in French 1900 GMT 20 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] General Ibrahim Barre Mainassara, National Salvation Council (CSN) chairman and head of state, met political party leaders and representatives of the diplomatic corps and international organizations in Niamey this afternoon. Addressing them, the head of state explained the meaning that should be given to this afternoon's meeting in regard to the context in which it took place. Let us listen to him:

[Begin Mainassara recording] Members of the CSN and of the cabinet, your excellencies heads of diplomatic missions and of international organizations, leaders of political parties, ladies and gentlemen: After the official proclamation by the Supreme Court of the results of the 12 May referendum — the very first consequence of which will be the rehabilitation of political parties whose activities were suspended following the events known to you all — it is our duty today to bring together the entire Niger political class to discuss with it the appropriate means of ensuring a new start for democracy in Niger. We decided, on purpose, to invite all heads of diplomatic missions and international organizations accredited to our country to this meeting.

Political party leaders: We consider today's meeting, which is taking place almost four months after the 27 January events, as necessary, because it will hopefully enable us to draw up together the new rules of the game that will ensure the survival of our democracy. I find the opportunity suitable to draw everyone's attention to the need, the urgent need, to play the game of democracy if we want to preserve peace and ensure stability in our country.

It is first and foremost important for you, political leaders, to always bear in mind the significance of our society's fundamental values. In other words, as leader, it is our duty first to persuade you and then to convince each of your respective political party activists of the fact that democracy is more a debate of ideas than a fight among people. If we do not want to jeopardize our true social values and lead our country onto a dangerous path, if we really want to successfully complete the long democratization process initiated five years, if we want to establish full and total democracy in our country that is commensurate with our people's aspirations, we must adopt a different approach. In other words, we must adopt a different behavior from the one that the Niger citizens had adopted until recently, and which had led to the return of the Army to the political scene.

Needless to say, we were brought to the present situation by your partisan quarrels and your inability to reach the minimum indispensable agreement for preserving peace and stability in our country. One need not remind you of how much those quarrels and differences harmed our country and seriously affected its credibility. One need not remind you that as a result of this behavior, the people became fed up with politics in general. Furthermore, such behavior might make our people dislike political activities.

Leaders of political parties, there is, therefore, the need today to find out the best way of meeting our people's aspirations for peace, stability, and progress. It is the opportunity for me to reiterate before all of you gathered here the appeal I made two days ago before the people of Niamey upon my return from a six-day tour of the hinterland of our country.

I appeal to all Niger citizens to respect the new Constitution that the people have adopted for themselves as well as all the relevant provisions of the Charter of Parties which ban the excesses that we had witnessed until recently through all those diatribes, provocations, insults, abuses, and so on. The people were finally fed up with all those excesses which changed the true nature of the political struggle, and gave a very bad image of our people to the outside world. Do you remember that certain media — because you gave them the opportunity to do so — did not hesitate to describe our people as infants? Is there any insult more serious than that? That is what I am asking you. Yet, that media actually said so, and it was due to the fault of politicians who poorly understood the rules of political game. It was also due to the fault of political leaders who failed to make their activists understand that politics — although it remains a game — has rules, nevertheless, the first and most important being those concerning social life.

I, therefore, call on you to assume your responsibilities — all your responsibilities — of leaders, that is social educators, to preserve our country from useless conflicts. I call on all the Niger people — regardless of their political inclinations — to understand that Niger's interest lies in the cohesion of its sons, that is social peace which has finally been restored.

As CSN chairman and head of state, I once again reaffirm the unanimous will of the CSN and the government to conduct to its end the democratic renewal established four months ago. Besides, as an ordinary citizen, I call on all Niger people — whether military or civilian, men or women, adults or teenagers — to unite and to work toward preserving and perpetuating this climate of serenity and concord that we all cherish so much.

I appeal to you to discard and to energetically fight any drift from and every infringement on the rules governing the democratic game and life in society, as well as every behavior capable of endangering the unity and harmony of our people. However, I would like to remind you that it is for this reason and because we want to preserve the peace of the people that we deemed it necessary to maintain the state of emergency.

As far as you, the heads of diplomatic missions and international organizations are concerned, you have been the attentive observers of the political situation in Niger. You are also the direct witnesses to the economic and financial difficulties and the many social troubles that Niger has experienced over the past few years. Added to these difficulties are the incessant, if not senseless, crises that erupted at the highest level of the governing body and which have nearly imperiled civil peace, security, and the peaceful and harmonious climate that is so dear to Niger and its citizens.

On the other hand, you will observe that during the first 100 days of its existence, the CSN and the government have resolutely decided to consolidate national peace and brotherhood, to bring about unity and understanding among the people of Niger, to restore the credibility of the state and the authority of the public authority, to pursue the task of economic and financial recovery, to create an envious political framework for the development of democracy and the fundamental freedoms in a context that should also guarantee the stability of our Republican institutions. All these activities were restored in less than four months and we would like to express our satisfaction, because the sovereign people of our country have adopted the Constitution of the Fourth Republic with 92.34 percent of the votes cast.

The rate of participation, which we said was low at the beginning, proved in reality to be higher than one of the rates recorded during the previous elections, namely the early legislative elections, thus [words indistinct] the institutions of the Republic.

Please permit me to use this opportunity given me here to very sincerely thank you, on behalf of the people of Niger, for the readiness and the constructive manner in which you have accompanied us in our ceaseless search for peace, stability, and economic and social development. I am asking you to convey our thanks and gratitude to the highest authorities of your countries and your institutions for the efforts they have made toward the development of our country. I am asking them to continue with these efforts by always remembering that in a country like ours, the path to democracy necessarily passes through the satisfaction of the most noble needs of the country.

In fact, you will agree with me that the difficulties assailing our country and for the solution of which we seeking your assistance, are not limited to resorting to politicking at the highest level of the executive body of the state or of political formations, but through the implementation of an effective crisis resolution strategy capable of providing Niger and the people of Niger with the necessary conditions for an economic take-off while strictly respecting the freedoms and the democratic (?aspirations of the people). This is why the return to multiparty politics and democracy under the new democratic process ushered in by the promulgation of the Constitution of the Fourth Republic constitutes a new opportunity and a new chance for Niger and we pray for the strengthening of civil peace, social peace, national unity, good health, and prosperity for our nation.

To us, (?this is) a challenge for Niger — a commitment that we will pursue with determination and, once again, by counting on the support of friendly countries, international organizations and institutions and all those who are committed to the democratic values of solidarity and prosperity.

Dear leaders of political parties, ladies and gentlemen, heads of diplomatic missions and international organizations: Allow me to conclude my speech by solemnly pledging before you that the CSN will never disrupt the smooth-running of the process, which within a few months, will lead to the installation of true democracy in our country. At this point, I would like to solemnly reaffirm our commitment to respect the provisions of the Constitution, that is to say, to respect the institutions, to respect the rules and regulations, to respect human rights and the fundamental freedoms, and to respect the rules of the democratic game.

If on our part, we undertake such a commitment to respect the new framework for the development of democracy and the fundamental freedoms, it is normal that we expect our partners, particularly the political parties, to strictly respect their obligations as defined by existing rules. To this effect, the return to democracy will not mean a return to anarchy, (?disobedience) or disorder, or an appeal for hatred or permanent confrontation. [end recording]

Niger: Mainassara Signs Decree Promulgating Constitution

AB2205142896 Niamey Voix du Sahel Network
in French 1200 GMT 22 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Ibrahim Bare Mainassara, the Niger National Council president, today signed a decree promulgating into law the Constitution adopted by

referendum on 12 May. Under Article 1 of the said decree, the Constitution adopted by referendum on 12 May is promulgated and executed as the supreme law of the Republic. The decree shall be published according to an emergency procedure.

Niger: Opposition Party Demands End to State of Emergency

AB2205204696 Niamey Voix du Sahel Network
in French 1200 GMT 22 May 96

[Statement issued by the Niger Party for Democracy and Socialism-Tareya in Niamey on 22 May; read by Elback Ada, executive committee member — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Niger Party for Democracy and Socialism-Tareya [PNDS-Tareya] National Executive Committee met today to analyze the political situation in the light of the context created by the 27 January events. At the end of the meeting, the National Executive Committee issued the following statement. It is read by Elback Ada, member of the party's executive committee:

[Ada] Using the improper functioning of the institutions of the Republic caused by the coalition government as a pretext, a group of officers decided on 27 January to overthrow the legitimate authorities democratically elected by the Niger people. The events occurred at a time when the government in power supported by the united parliamentary majority had put the country back on course and was about to receive substantial external financial resources which would have laid down the conditions for the revival of our economy, which had been hit by crisis for nearly 15 years. Four months after the events, the PNDS-Tareya executive committee notes that our country's situation has deteriorated at all levels.

On the political level, the crisis has been marked by gross violation of human rights and an authoritarian drift characterized by abductions, arbitrary arrests, and attempts to gag the media. Exclusion of a section of the people, influence peddling, and amateurism have reached unrivalled proportions in our country. State affairs were conducted on the basis of bitterness. On the economic level, there is heightened tension at the Treasury Department due to a reduction in civil servants' pay, the staggering rise in prices of basic commodities — cereals, bread, and condiments — as well as food shortage and the situation of serious famine in the country. In the face of such a situation, the PNDS-Tareya National Executive Committee

1. Reaffirms its opposition to the use of force as a means of solving political problems.

2. Condemns the persecution, intimidation, and exclusion to which several citizens have fallen victim during these past four months, particularly the activists and professionals belonging to the PNDS-Tareya.

3. Reaffirms its commitment to democracy and the Republic as universal values which are indispensable for development and expresses satisfaction with the Niger people's endorsement of the 12 May Constitution, which restores democratic and Republican order.

4. Expresses satisfaction with the efforts being made by Niger democrats and the international community to ensure the respect of human rights and law in our country and the return of constitutional normalcy.

5. Pays tribute to the independent newspapers which had the remarkable courage to brave all threats to freely express their opinions. Regarding future elections, the PNDS-Tareya National Executive Committee:

1. Urges the transitional authorities to work to ensure strict compliance with the Constitution and complete the transitional timetable by setting the dates for parliamentary elections as soon as possible. In particular, the PNDS-Tareya urges the lifting of the state of emergency whose continuation and extension is a violation of the Constitution, which was recently endorsed by the Niger people. Justifying the continuation of the state of emergency by the fact that there may be possible disturbances is belied by the tranquility and calm which have characterized elections in Niger since 1992, which were considered to be exemplary by the entire international community.

2. Denounces the massive embezzlement of state funds, the use of state media, state vehicles, the territorial administration department, and so on for election campaign purposes.

3. Urges the National Salvation Council, political parties, and prospective independent candidates to leave the National Armed Forces out of political maneuvers to avoid divisions which will jeopardize our country's security.

4. Urges the international community to give its support to the country for free and fair elections and to ensure there is an adequate number of foreign observers.

Niger: Minister — State of Emergency Not To Stop Political Activity

AB2205205096 *Niamey Voix du Sahel Network*
in French 1200 GMT 22 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Political parties which were reactivated two days ago have expressed concern over the fact that the state of emergency is being maintained.

Interior Minister Idi Ango Omar explained the situation this morning:

[Begin Omar recording] On behalf of the National Salvation Council [CSN] and the government, I would like to reassure political party leaders and their activists that maintaining the state of emergency does not run counter to the resumption of party political activity. Political parties can carry out their activities in compliance with existing laws and regulations. They can hold their meetings and rallies without any hindrance whatsoever. The concern of the CSN and the government in maintaining the state of emergency is to ensure that peace is maintained, social calm is guaranteed, and peace is maintained in all the rural areas too. We should not forget that prior to the 27 January incidents, there was widespread insecurity in the rural and urban areas. Furthermore, there was the underlying [word indistinct] of the rebel movement. Social peace was somewhat disrupted due to a misconception of democratic practices.

Today, (four) months thereafter, people have noticed that there has been a marked improvement in social calm, and serenity has returned. Therefore, the only concern in maintaining the state of emergency is to ensure by all means that social peace, calm, and serenity are guaranteed and disturbances avoided. Implementing a state of emergency means that all the forces in charge of guaranteeing national security are in a position to act quickly to ward off any disturbances or unrest anywhere in the country. [end recording]

Niger: Prime Minister Aji on Resumption of Political Activities

LD2005205496 *Paris Radio France International*
in French 1830 GMT 20 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] As promised we have an in-depth report on the political situation in Niger, with the lifting of the ban on political parties today. The 20-odd political groups whose activities were suspended after the coup d'état on 27 January, may henceforth resume their activities. Niger Prime Minister Boukari Aji, in an interview with Diane Galliot, speaks about the return of political parties to the stage in Niger.

[Begin recording] [Aji] The resumption of political activities is planned from Monday [20 May]. Of course, it will be up to each movement to see how they intend to organize themselves for the resumption of political activities. The important thing to note at this stage is that shortly after, that is to say, on 28 May exactly, candidates will start standing for the presidential elections — so from 28 May to 7 June. The elections themselves are scheduled for July — the first round is to be held on 7 July. So in the interim, a whole

series of meetings will be organized, and certainly there will be debates within political movements.

[Galliot] Will the period before the elections not be a little short, taking into account the fact that political activities as a whole were in a way frozen since the coup d'etat? Will there not be too little time to allow the candidates to stand, and for political parties to organize a real campaign throughout the country?

[Aji] It is not impossible, but what I see is that some political parties, perhaps even the majority, seem to have wanted a shorter period of transition.

[Galliot] The other challenge is rather the problem of finance. How is one to organize these elections that are looming and how can one already put the country back on track?

[Aji] The relaunching of the country is Niger's problem, and the problem, I think, of all the other countries, because inevitably it will come about through the resumption of cooperation with the outside world — cooperation that in itself supposes that we will conclude agreements with, in particular, the Bretton Woods institutions.

I can say that these things have almost been achieved since on 6 May, as you know, we had to sign a draft agreement with the IMF and the World Bank, which [words indistinct] the resumption of normal relations with multilateral partners as well as bilateral.

As far as the elections are concerned, as you know we have already received some financing from France for a sum of 700 million CFA francs. In the communique from the EU meeting of 13 May, I read that the EU also plans to provide backing to Niger in the framework of the elections. Moreover, we hope that other partners will also come to our assistance to allow us to cover the budget that is estimated at 3.5 billion CFA francs. [end recording]

Niger: Libyan Official Reiterates Support for Development Efforts

AB2105185396 Niamey Voix du Sahel Network in French 1200 GMT 21 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Abdallah Hamid Hamar, Libyan coordinator in charge of Arab relations at the Liaison Bureau for Revolutionary Committees, held a news conference this morning. The conference focused on Libya's domestic policy and Libyan leader Mu'ammarr al-Qaddafi's Green Book on the power of the people, by the people, and for the people. Regarding relations between the two countries, the coordinator said Libya will continue to support development efforts in Niger in all sectors.

[Begin Hamar recording in arabic, fading into french translation] At the Liaison Bureau for Revolutionary Committees, we attach great importance to the development of relations between the Great Jamahiriya and Niger. The Liaison Bureau has contributed greatly to humanitarian development and has supplied a great number of Arabic and Islamic books which preserve the Islamic identity of the friendly Niger people in confrontation with the campaign of Christianity with which the West is trying to dominate poor populations. The Liaison Bureau maintains good relations with the various social and political forces in the country. We are cooperating with associations with an Islamic calling, as well as other Islamic organizations, and associations working to preserve the Arabic language all throughout Niger. Furthermore, we contribute to cultural seminars in the Zinder region. We have a program which we will coordinate with our Niger brothers in the various southern towns because we think Niger is a united country. We are working alongside people of goodwill in this country to reaffirm the country's unity and preserve peace and stability. [end recording]

Nigeria

Nigeria: Nonaligned Movement Urged To Resist Western Media

AB2205100696 Lagos Radio Nigeria Network in English 0600 GMT 22 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nigeria has called on member countries of the Nonaligned Movement to resist attempts by some Western nations to undermine the sovereignty of the developing countries. The minister of information and culture, Dr. Walter Ofonagoro, made the call yesterday at a world news conference on the 13th meeting of the Intergovernmental Council [IGC] of the movement scheduled for this week in Abuja.

Dr. Ofonagoro said the Western nations were using their media to pour tonnes of reactionary ideas and cultural materials to further suppress developing nations. He asked the media in the nonaligned countries not only to see themselves as the mouthpiece of the people, but to be unbiased in their judgment of events and history.

Dr. Ofonagoro expressed gratitude to the Government and people of Namibia, Tanzania, and member nations of the Southern African Development Commission for refusing to be used in the campaign for sanctions on Nigeria. He said that necessary arrangements had been concluded to receive delegates to the meeting. About 40 countries are expected to attend the IGC meeting which will exchange ideas on achievements and experiences of member nations in the field of information and communication.

Nigeria: Army Chief Urges Good Army-Civilian Relations

AB2205100796 Lagos Radio Nigeria Network in English 0600 GMT 22 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The chief of army staff, Major General Ishaya Bamayi, has stressed the need for continued cordial relations between the military and civilians. Maj. Gen. Bamayi was speaking in Port Harcourt during a courtesy visit to the Rivers State administrator, Lieutenant Colonel Dauda Komo. He stated that such relationship was necessary in the interest of peace. Maj. Gen. Bamayi said he was in Port Harcourt as part of his tour of the 82 Division of the Nigerian Army and commended the Rivers State Government for its assistance to military formations in the state.

Responding, Col. Komo praised the role of the military in the maintenance of security in the country.

Nigeria: Death of First President Azikiwe Formally Announced 21 May

AB2105225096 Lagos NTA Television Network in English 2000 GMT 21 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The first president of Nigeria and the Owele [traditional title] of Onitsha, the Right Honorable Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe, has passed on. Mr. Chukwuma Azikiwe, the first son of the Owele, made the formal announcement today in Onitsha at a news conference. Correspondent Peter Ogbena has the details:

[Begin Ogbena recording] He said his father died at the University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital, UNTH, Enugu, on the 11th of this month. Mr. Chukwuma Azikiwe said he would be accompanied by members of his family to Abuja tomorrow to inform the head of state, commander in chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, General Sani Abacha, of the death of his father. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Senegal**Senegal: Government, Iran Sign Trade, Culture, Other Memoranda**

NC2205063096 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0230 GMT 22 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Dr. Velayati, who is currently on a visit to Dakar to participate in the first meeting of the Iran-Senegal joint cooperation commission, signed seven memoranda of understanding on trade, mines, energy, agriculture, fisheries, and cultural affairs yesterday. He held a meeting with Senegalese President Abdou Diouf. Our correspondent reports:

[Begin recording] During this meeting the Senegalese president stressed Iran's distinctive position in the world, especially among Islamic countries, and said: The Islamic Republic of Iran has made extremely constructive efforts for the establishment of peace in Islamic countries so far, especially in Lebanon and Bosnia-Herzegovina, which is commendable. At this meeting, which was also attended by the Senegalese foreign minister, the president stated that the setting up of the first session of the joint Iran-Senegal cooperation commission was a momentous and significant event. He expressed the hope that the cordial and constructive relations between the two countries would broaden further.

Foreign Minister Dr. Velayati referred to the common historical and political denominators between the two countries and said: The trend of growth in our bilateral relations indicates the political will of Tehran and Dakar for greater broadening of these relations and the joint cooperation commissions can be considered a suitable framework for broadening this cooperation.

During the course of this meeting, Dr. Velayati reviewed events in the Middle East and West Africa and referred to Senegal's sensitive position in West Africa. He expressed his appreciation for Senegal's pivotal role in the establishment of peace and stability in this part of the world.

In conclusion, Dr. Velayati conveyed President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's message to President Abdou Diouf in which he was invited to visit Tehran. The Senegalese president accepted this invitation and expressed the hope that he would be able to visit our country in the near future. [end recording]

Senegal: Iran's Velayati Concludes Visit; Agreements Described

NC2205071596 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 22 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Dr. Velayati, who is currently on a visit to Senegal at the head of a high-level delegation to participate in the first session of the joint economic commission, met Senegalese President Abdou Diouf last night and conveyed a message from President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to him.

According to our special correspondent, during this meeting the Senegalese president expressed his appreciation for the Islamic Republic of Iran's efforts to establish peace and stability in Islamic countries, especially in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Lebanon.

President Abdou Diouf described the establishment of the first session of the joint economic commission of the two countries as an important and significant event and called for greater expansion of relations between the two countries. He welcomed the invitation by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani for a visit to Iran and expressed the hope that he would be able to visit Tehran in the near future.

During this meeting, Foreign Minister Dr. Velayati referred to Senegal's position in West Africa and lauded the pivotal role of the country in the establishment of peace in this part of the world.

According to our correspondent, on conclusion of the first session of the Iran-Senegal joint economic cooperation commission which was convened in Dakar yesterday, seven memoranda of understanding were signed between the two countries.

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] With the signing of these seven memoranda of understanding, the foreign ministers of Iran and Senegal stressed the broadening of relations in the economic, commercial, and industrial fields, as well as in oil, energy, agriculture, fisheries, and cultural affairs. In conclusion, it was stated that in view of the high level of the Islamic Republic of Iran's technical capabilities, especially in dispatching industrial goods and components needed by Senegal for its reconstruction and for the construction of industrial factories in Senegal, Iran would assist Senegal by providing technical and training services and in implementing industrial research projects there.

Similarly, the two countries would forge relations between their respective chambers of commerce and industry, banks, export promotion centers, and would convene trade exhibitions, and thus broaden mutual cooperation. In the fields of mines, energy, and agriculture, Iran would continue to purchase minerals such as phosphate from Senegal and would assist it in the field of seismology in its oil regions.

In addition, the two countries would boost cooperation in oil, exploration for natural gas, construction of dams and power plants. Iran and Senegal would henceforth cooperate in the field of industrial fishing and Iran would avail of the services of Senegalese experts on fisheries.

The seventh memorandum of understanding signed between the foreign ministers of the two countries was in the field of cultural affairs according to which Iran and Senegal would closely cooperate in the areas of art, culture, higher education, radio and television, and in health. The two countries would exchange films, stage cultural festivals and book exhibitions,

exchange teachers and students, and share information on combating narcotics smuggling. [end recording]

Following the welcome by the people and government of Senegal for Iran's non-oil commodities, the Senegalese president sent a message to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani calling for Iran's participation in the 12th International Trade Fair in Dakar. This was stated by our ambassador in Senegal yesterday, who added that the volume of commercial exchanges between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Senegal had reached \$10 million.

Our correspondent reports that Dr. Velayati and his accompanying delegation left Dakar for Tehran this morning.

Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone: RUF Spokesman Denies Guinea's Mediation Sought in Crisis

*AB2105143296 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French
1215 GMT 21 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] We move on to Sierra Leone and to a clarification made by the Revolutionary United Front [RUF] spokesman, Fayia Musa, who is in Abidjan for the continuation of the peace talks. He said that Cote d'Ivoire is still the only mediator in the Sierra Leonean crisis. He, however, asked other African leaders to help Cote d'Ivoire as facilitators. There is no question of the RUF looking for other mediators, the RUF spokesman added. Musa, therefore, termed as a misunderstanding the information from Conakry saying that the RUF leader, who is presently on a visit to Guinea, has requested Guinea's mediation in the Sierra Leonean crisis. The spokesman, who reiterated the rebel group's demands, notably the reorganization of elections in the country, pointed out that the current cease-fire will last the duration of the peace talks. Corporal Foday Sankoh is in Guinea apparently to meet with Sierra Leonean refugees.

Sierra Leone: RUF Reportedly Violates Cease-Fire, Attacks Southern Village

*AB2105213996 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French
1830 GMT 21 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] In Sierra Leone, the cease-fire has been violated since yesterday. The Revolutionary United Front [RUF], the armed rebel group, yesterday attacked a village in the south of the country. Reports indicate that about 30 civilians were killed in the attack. The attack does not really come as a surprise because Foday Sankoh, the RUF leader, said a few days ago that he did not recognize the government of newly elected

President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah. Foday Sankoh went as far as saying that his movement would be prepared to take up arms once again if fresh general elections were not held immediately in Sierra Leone.

Sierra Leone: Agreement on Agricultural Enterprises Signed With Iran

**AB1705135196 Freetown SLBS Radio in English
0700 GMT 17 May 96**

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A legal document granting permission to the Islamic Republic of Iran to engage in agricultural and fishing activities in some parts of the (Kafubulum) chiefdom has been handed over to the Iranian ambassador in Freetown, Mr. (Majid Brismarck). It will be recalled that the Governments of Sierra Leone and Iran last year signed a memorandum of understanding in which Article 8 calls for a joint economic venture between both states.

Presenting the document to the Iranian ambassador, the acting fisheries and marine resources minister, Mr. M.B. Seesay, said the acquisition of land has paid the way for rapid Iranian participation in the agricultural and fisheries program for 10 years.

Ambassador (name indistinct), in response, described the receipt of the document as a clear manifestation of the long standing bilateral relations existing between Sierra Leone and Iran. The document temporarily conveyed a land at Makeh village, (Kafubulum) chiefdom, Bobobu District, to the Government of Iran for agricultural purposes.

The project, it is believed, will be beneficial to the people in the area and also the fishermen at (Conakry 10) and (Swanton) areas by way of employment.

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1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 2026 2027 2028 2029 2030 2031 2032 2033 2034 2035 2036 2037 2038 2039 2040 2041 2042 2043 2044 2045 2046 2047 2048 2049 2050 2051 2052 2053 2054 2055 2056 2057 2058 2059 2060 2061 2062 2063 2064 2065 2066 2067 2068 2069 2070 2071 2072 2073 2074 2075 2076 2077 2078 2079 2080 2081 2082 2083 2084 2085 2086 2087 2088 2089 2090 2091 2092 2093 2094 2095 2096 2097 2098 2099 2100 2101 2102 2103 2104 2105 2106 2107 2108 2109 2110 2111 2112 2113 2114 2115 2116 2117 2118 2119 2120 2121 2122 2123 2124 2125 2126 2127 2128 2129 2130 2131 2132 2133 2134 2135 2136 2137 2138 2139 2140 2141 2142 2143 2144 2145 2146 2147 2148 2149 2150 2151 2152 2153 2154 2155 2156 2157 2158 2159 2160 2161 2162 2163 2164 2165 2166 2167 2168 2169 2170 2171 2172 2173 2174 2175 2176 2177 2178 2179 2180 2181 2182 2183 2184 2185 2186 2187 2188 2189 2190 2191 2192 2193 2194 2195 2196 2197 2198 2199 2200 2201 2202 2203 2204 2205 2206 2207 2208 2209 2210 2211 2212 2213 2214 2215 2216 2217 2218 2219 2220 2221 2222 2223 2224 2225 2226 2227 2228 2229 2230 2231 2232 2233 2234 2235 2236 2237 2238 2239 2240 2241 2242 2243 2244 2245 2246 2247 2248 2249 2250 2251 2252 2253 2254 2255 2256 2257 2258 2259 2260 2261 2262 2263 2264 2265 2266 2267 2268 2269 2270 2271 2272 2273 2274 2275 2276 2277 2278 2279 2280 2281 2282 2283 2284 2285 2286 2287 2288 2289 2290 2291 2292 2293 2294 2295 2296 2297 2298 2299 2300 2301 2302 2303 2304 2305 2306 2307 2308 2309 2310 2311 2312 2313 2314 2315 2316 2317 2318 2319 2320 2321 2322 2323 2324 2325 2326 2327 2328 2329 2330 2331 2332 2333 2334 2335 2336 2337 2338 2339 2340 2341 2342 2343 2344 2345 2346 2347 2348 2349 2350 2351 2352 2353 2354 2355 2356 2357 2358 2359 2360 2361 2362 2363 2364 2365 2366 2367 2368 2369 2370 2371 2372 2373 2374 2375 2376 2377 2378 2379 2380 2381 2382 2383 2384 2385 2386 2387 2388 2389 2390 2391 2392 2393 2394 2395 2396 2397 2398 2399 2400 2401 2402 2403 2404 2405 2406 2407 2408 2409 2410 2411 2412 2413 2414 2415 2416 2417 2418 2419 2420 2421 2422 2423 2424 2425 2426 2427 2428 2429 2430 2431 2432 2433 2434 2435 2436 2437 2438 2439 2440 2441 2442 2443 2444 2445 2446 2447 2448 2449 2450 2451 2452 2453 2454 2455 2456 2457 2458 2459 2460 2461 2462 2463 2464 2465 2466 2467 2468 2469 2470 2471 2472 2473 2474 2475 2476 2477 2478 2479 2480 2481 2482 2483 2484 2485 2486 2487 2488 2489 2490 2491 2492 2493 2494 2495 2496 2497 2498 2499 2500 2501 2502 2503 2504 2505 2506 2507 2508 2509 2510 2511 2512 2513 2514 2515 2516 2517 2518 2519 2520 2521 2522 2523 2524 2525 2526 2527 2528 2529 2530 2531 2532 2533 2534 2535 2536 2537 2538 2539 2540 2541 2542 2543 2544 2545 2546 2547 2548 2549 2550 2551 2552 2553 2554 2555 2556 2557 2558 2559 2560 2561 2562 2563 2564 2565 2566 2567 2568 2569 2570 2571 2572 2573 2574 2575 2576 2577 2578 2579 2580 2581 2582 2583 2584 2585 2586 2587 2588 2589 2590 2591 2592 2593 2594 2595 2596 2597 2598 2599 2600 2601 2602 2603 2604 2605 2606 2607 2608 2609 2610 2611 2612 2613 2614 2615 2616 2617 2618 2619 2620 2621 2622 2623 2624 2625 2626 2627 2628 2629 2630 2631 2632 2633 2634 2635 2636 2637 2638 2639 2640 2641 2642 2643 2644 2645 2646 2647 2648 2649 2650 2651 2652 2653 2654 2655 2656 2657 2658 2659 2660 2661 2662 2663 2664 2665 2666 2667 2668 2669 2670 2671 2672 2673 2674 2675 2676 2677 2678 2679 2680 2681 2682 2683 2684 2685 2686 2687 2688 2689 2690 2691 2692 2693 2694 2695 2696 2697 2698 2699 2700 2701 2702 2703 2704 2705 2706 2707 2708 2709 2710 2711 2712 2713 2714 2715 2716 2717 2718 2719 2720 2721 2722 2723 2724 2725 2726 2727 2728 2729 2730 2731 2732 2733 2734 2735 2736 2737 2738 2739 2740 2741 2742 2743 2744 2745 2746 2747 2748 2749 2750 2751 2752 2753 2754 2755 2756 2757 2758 2759 2760 2761 2762 2763 2764 2765 2766 2767 2768 2769 2770 2771 2772 2773 2774 2775 2776 2777 2778 2779 2780 2781 2782 2783 2784 2785 2786 2787 2788 2789 2790 2791 2792 2793 2794 2795 2796 2797 2798 2799 2800 2801 2802 2803 2804 2805 2806 2807 2808 2809 2810 2811 2812 2813 2814 2815 2

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